

**Utah Department of Public Safety  
Driver License Division**

**Utah Driver Handbook**



# SOME DEFINITIONS IN OUR LAWS YOU SHOULD KNOW AS A DRIVER

1. **Cancellation** - termination of a license issued through error or fraud or for which necessary consent has been withdrawn.
2. **Commercial Driver License** - a license which allows the holder to operate any vehicle with a G.V.W. of 26,001 lbs. or more, or to transport more than 15 passengers, hazardous materials, doubles/triples, bulk liquids (tankers) or school buses.
3. **Denied** - withdrawal of driving privilege pending compliance with a rule or request.
4. **Disqualification** - a temporary or permanent withdrawal of a commercial driver license.
5. **Division** - the Driver License Division of the Department of Public Safety.
6. **Farm Tractor** - every self-propelled vehicle designed and used primarily as a farm implement for drawing plows, mowing machines and other implements of husbandry.
7. **License** - the privilege to operate a motor vehicle.
8. **License Certificate** - the evidence of the privilege to operate a motor vehicle.
9. **Motor Vehicle** - every self-propelled vehicle, except motorized wheelchairs and vehicles moved solely by human power.
10. **Motorcycle** - every motor vehicle, except farm tractors, designed to travel with not more than three wheels in contact with the ground.
11. **Nonresident** - every person who is not a resident of Utah and who has not sojourned or engaged in any gainful occupation in the State for an aggregate period of 60 days in the preceding 12 months and also every person who is temporarily assigned by an employer to work in Utah.
12. **Operator** - a person who is in actual physical control of a motor vehicle.
13. **Pedestrian Vehicle** - any self-propelled conveyance designed, manufactured and intended for the exclusive use of persons with a physical disability. The vehicle must not exceed 48 inches in width, have an engine in excess of 300 cubic centimeters (more than 12 brake horsepower) or be capable of exceeding speeds of more than 30 m.p.h.
14. **Provisional License** - an original Utah license issued to any person under 21 years of age.
15. **Revocation** - termination of the privilege to drive a motor vehicle.
16. **School Bus** - every publicly or privately owned motor vehicle designed for transporting ten or more passengers and operated for the transportation of children to or from school or school activities.
17. **Suspension** - temporary withdrawal of the privilege to drive.
18. **Taxicab** - a class D motor vehicle transporting any number of passengers for hire and which is subject to State or federal regulations as a taxi.
19. **Vehicle** - every device by which any person or property may be transported upon a highway, except devices used exclusively on stationary rails or tracks.

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## CHAPTER 1

# DRIVER LICENSE REGULATION

### Who needs a Utah Driver License?

**EVERY RESIDENT OF UTAH WHO DRIVES A MOTOR VEHICLE ON THE HIGHWAYS MUST HAVE A VALID UTAH LICENSE OR LEARNER PERMIT.**

#### **Persons become residents if they:**

1. Enter the State with the intention of making Utah their home.
2. Are gainfully employed in Utah. (Does not apply if you are on temporary assignment in the State.)

### Persons Who do Not Need A Utah Drivers License

#### **Nonresident Drivers**

Nonresidents licensed by another state may drive in Utah:

1. If they are at least 16 years old.
2. If they will be visiting Utah for no more than a total of 60 days in a 12 month period. After that time, they must apply for a Utah driver license.

#### **Nonresident Military Service Personnel and Dependents**

Nonresident military service personnel and their dependents who reside on base and who hold valid licenses from another state do not need a Utah driver license. Nonresident dependents who do not have legal residence in a compact state or who reside off base must apply for a Utah license within sixty (60) days after arrival in the State. Government driver licenses are valid only on base or when operating government vehicles.

#### **Other Exceptions**

Persons are not required to get a driver license to drive road rollers, road machinery or farm tractors on Utah highways.

**YOUR OUT OF STATE LICENSE MUST BE SURRENDERED UPON APPLICATION  
FOR A UTAH LICENSE**

### THE DRIVER LICENSE COMPACTS

Utah is a member of both the **Driver License Compact (DLC)** and **The Non-Resident Violator Compact (NRVC)**. The DLC provides guidelines for greater cooperation among members in driver license matters. Among other things, member jurisdictions exchange driver records and forward convictions for traffic offenses to the driver's home state. All 50 states, including the District of Columbia (Washington, D.C.) are members of the DLC except:

Georgia

Massachusetts

|           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| Michigan  | Tennessee |
| Wisconsin |           |

The NRVC provides for members to forward notices from their courts that an out of state driver has failed to comply with the terms of a traffic citation. The driver's home state will suspend the driver's privilege to drive until it receives satisfactory evidence that the driver has complied with the terms of the citation in the other member state. This Compact also facilitates release of out of state drivers who are cited by law enforcement, instead of incarcerating them or requiring posting of bond. All 50 states, including the District of Columbia (Washington, D.C.) are members of the NRVC except:

|          |            |
|----------|------------|
| Alaska   | California |
| Michigan | Montana    |
| Oregon   | Wisconsin  |

## **Persons declined a Utah Drivers License**

The following list outlines conditions under which you may not be issued a Utah driver license:

- If you are under the required age of 16.
- If your driving privilege is denied, suspended, revoked or disqualified.
- If you are unable to understand highway signs in the English language.
- If you are physically or mentally unable to drive safely.
- If you have not passed the required examinations.
- If you have a traffic ticket or other warrant which has not been settled.

## **TYPES OF LICENSES**

### **Instruction Permit**

This permit allows a student to drive with an instructor who is qualified to teach driver education in a dual-control car. It is only valid for driving the driver education car and becomes proof of completion of the course. Driver education courses are available from approved high schools, private commercial schools or some State colleges and universities.

### **Practice Permit**

This is a permit that may be issued by a driver education teacher who is certified as a driver license tester. The conditions and restrictions governing the issuance and use of the practice permit can be obtained from the teacher.

A practice permit may also be issued to any student (who is at least 15 years and 9 months old) of a commercial driver training school. The student must provide the driver license office with either a



verification form from the school stating that the student is enrolled in an approved driver training class, or a certificate indicating that the individual has completed the driving course. The permit will be issued upon payment of the regular driver license fees and completion of required tests. The practice permit is valid for up to 90 days and allows the person to operate a class D motor vehicle when the person's parent, legal guardian or adult spouse, who must be a licensed driver, is occupying the seat next to the person and no other passengers are in the vehicle.

### **Learner Permit**

If you are at least 16 years old and have completed a driver education course, you may apply for a Learner Permit, if desired/needed. This six-month permit will be issued when you have successfully passed the written and eye tests. It allows you to drive as long as you have a licensed driver beside you. There can be no other passengers in the car.

### **Operator License (Class D)**

To get an original operator license, you must be at least 16 years old, have completed an approved driver education course or have proof of a license from another state or country. This license allows you to drive all personal vehicles (up to 26,000 pounds) with the exception of motorcycles. To drive a taxicab, you must have a taxicab endorsement.

### **Larger Class License**

Other class licenses are required if you drive certain types of vehicles. You must be at least 18 years old before applying for any of these licenses and, if under 21 years old, you will be restricted to intrastate operation only. For commercial interstate classes, you must be at least 21 years old. Each class or endorsement requires special tests. For further details, see the Commercial Driver License manual. You must also have one year driving experience to qualify for the Commercial Driver License (CDL).

### **Motorcycle License/Endorsement**

To operate a motorcycle on Utah highways, your driver license must have a motorcycle endorsement. The requirements for this endorsement are the same as for obtaining an operator license except that the tests will be different. If you do not wish to drive automobiles, a "Motorcycle Only" license may be issued upon passing the required examinations. If you have not been licensed to operate a motorcycle previously, you may be issued a motorcycle learner permit, if necessary. The Division may waive the skills portion of the test upon successful completion of a Division approved motorcycle rider education course. (Contact any driver license office or call 1-800-532-7691 for details.) **Any motorcycle operator or passenger who is not 18 years old must wear approved headgear. For further details see the Motorcycle Operator Manual.** Also, all motorcycles licensed for street use must have liability insurance coverage. The signature of a parent or guardian is required for motorcycle applicants under 18 years of age, if the applicant has not been previously issued a driver license.

### **Restricted and/or Limited Licenses**

The Driver License Division can issue driver licenses to individuals who have disabilities or reduced capability to drive safely in all types of traffic conditions. This means that drivers who have experienced medical problems such as major surgery, amputation, or serious illnesses do not necessarily have to give up driving. Additionally, drivers who experience diminished reflexes or vision problems and who are

afraid that they will lose their driving privileges because of these things, should know that that is not always the case.

The Driver License Division can review a driver's medical report provided by his or her health care provider and administer vision, knowledge and skills tests that measure a driver's functional ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. Once this assessment has been completed, a license with restrictions may be issued which will permit the driver to continue driving within the safe limits of the driver's ability.

Sometimes the Division requests drivers to appear for a review examination. The request for an evaluation can be based upon a request from a law enforcement officer who observed some driving situation that calls into question the driver's ability to safely operate his or her vehicle. A request may also be prompted by information the Division has received that the driver may be impaired or have a medical condition which requires an assessment of the driver's functional ability to drive. A driver should not think that he or she will lose all driving privileges just because he or she has received a request for a review examination. However, if a driver does not complete a review examination, the driver license will be suspended or revoked.

The review examination consists of taking a vision screening test, a routine knowledge test, and often times a short road test in the driver's vehicle. If the driver has a physical impairment or medical problem, the driver may also be asked to have his or her health care provider complete a medical form for the Division. Usually the form can be filled out by the health care provider from information in the driver's medical records and a special appointment or physical examination is not required.

The review examination is scheduled by making an appointment at the driver's convenience and generally takes less than one hour to complete. After the review examination has been completed, a hearing officer will discuss the results with the driver and will review the medical evaluation form, if one was required. The hearing officer will take into account the driving needs of the individual, the type of roads or highways used, the traffic conditions usually experienced, etc. The officer will also refer to guidelines established by the Driver License Medical Advisory board as they relate to the medical form provided by the driver (see Chapter 7). The hearing officer will then decide whether any restrictions need to be placed upon the driver license.

Only when the Division determines that a driver cannot operate a vehicle safely under any condition, is the driver license withdrawn. Often no restrictions are required, but when they are, one or more of the following conditions are specified on the driver license.

- Driver must wear corrective lenses when driving.
- Vehicle must be equipped with mechanical aid(s).
- Driver must wear a prosthetic aid when driving.
- Vehicle must be equipped with an automatic transmission.
- Vehicle must be equipped with outside mirror(s).
- Driver may drive only during daylight hours.
- Driver may not exceed 40 miles per hour.
- Driver may drive only to, from and in connection with work.
- Special restrictions may reflect the driver's special needs such as the need to drive only within his or her community for necessary travel like shopping, going to the doctor's office, attending church

services, etc.

- Driver may operate commercial motor vehicles but not transport passengers or hazardous materials.
- Driver may operate commercial motor vehicles only in intrastate commerce.
- Driver may not operate commercial motor vehicles over 26,000 lbs. GVWR.

The Driver License Medical Advisory Board has recommended that certain restrictions be applied whenever the medical evaluation form indicates a particular level of severity of impairment. The Division generally adheres to those recommendations very closely. Any driver who does not feel such recommendations apply to his or her circumstances, may petition the Medical Advisory Board for a review. The Medical Advisory Board also establishes guidelines for granting waivers for intrastate CDL drivers. A fee is required to process each application.

The Driver License Division recognizes that there is a big difference in the range of functional abilities among Utah drivers when operating motor vehicles. The Division is also aware that changes in driving abilities occur naturally as drivers mature and age. The system for measuring driving skills also permits driving privileges to be tailored to individual circumstances as long as the safety of others is not jeopardized. The Division can usually make accommodations for changes in a person's functional ability to drive, but the Division will not hesitate to deny driving privileges to drivers who are clearly unsafe.

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## CHAPTER 2

# OBTAINING A DRIVER LICENSE

### Seven steps to obtaining a Utah Driver License

Obtaining a driver license in Utah is not a complicated process. It requires a maximum of seven steps.

The steps are:

1. Completion of driver training or have a license from another state or country.
2. Assumption of financial liability.
3. Furnish positive identification.
4. Payment of applicable fees.
5. Completion of medical questionnaire and vision test.
6. Completion of required written/skills tests.
7. A photo.

Any or all of these steps may apply to you, depending on your individual situation.

**NOTE:** Under Utah law, the individual driver is responsible to refrain from driving if there is any uncertainty about his/her physical, mental or emotional status which may affect driving safety. If the condition persists, he/she is responsible for reporting it to the Driver License Division.

To assist each driver license applicant, brief health questions are required to be answered at the time of license application. If certain problems are apparent, applicants may be referred to their health care provider for a competent evaluation, advice and completion of a health profile form as the basis for issuing an appropriate permit or license. (See Chapter 7 for further details.) Physically challenged applicants with special needs are invited to contact the supervisor of the local driver license office for assistance.

### Completion of Driver Education

All individuals who have never been licensed to drive a motor vehicle must complete an approved driver education course before being licensed in Utah. A certificate of completion of the course must be furnished to the examiner at the time application is made. Remember that this certificate of completion is not a license to drive.

### Assumption of Financial Responsibility

Every person who is under 18 years of age must have the application signed by one of his/her parents or guardian. If no person has custody, then a responsible adult who is willing to assume responsibility for the minor may sign. The person who signs should realize that his/her signature is an assumption of legal responsibility for the applicant's driving. It may be withdrawn if the adult who signed is no longer willing to assume that responsibility. When the signature is withdrawn, the applicant's driving privilege is canceled and may be regained only through proper assumption of responsibility and the payment of another fee. The applicant may also be required to retake all tests.

### Positive Identification

When you first apply for a Utah driver license, you must provide proof of name, date and place of birth and your social security number. Items on the following list are some of the acceptable documents:

- Passports
- Military documents
- Church records
- Nonresident Alien Registration
- Current driver license
- Home mortgage or lease papers
- Court of record documents
- 1-94 card or INS 1-551 card
- Certified birth certificate  
(Not a certificate issued by the hospital)
- Utah State ID Card
- Police Pistol Permit with photo
- Social Security card
- Indian blood certificate
- School I.D with photo
- Matricular Consular/ID

### When changing your name

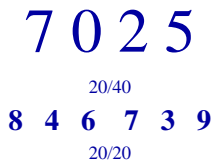
A legal document must be furnished.  
Examples are: marriage license. divorce decree or court order.

## Completion of Required Tests

When you are ready to take the driver license examination, go to any Driver License Division office. Full-time offices are located in LOGAN, BRIGHAM CITY, OGDEN, FARMINGTON, SALT LAKE CITY (NORTH WEST OFFICE), WEST VALLEY CITY, OREM, and ST. GEORGE. The Commercial Driver License offices (CDL) are open in Salt Lake and Box Elder counties. Contact your local office for further information. These offices are open from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. All part-time driver license offices are visited on a regular basis by an examiner. The locations of all offices are shown in the back of this manual. Although times may vary, a schedule will be posted at all testing locations. Appear one hour before closing time to ensure you have sufficient time to complete all of the licensing process.

### Eye (Vision) Test

The Division requires 20/40 vision and peripheral fields (side vision) of 120 degrees in each eye to pass the vision test. If you fail to meet this standard with or without glasses, you will be required to get a statement from your eye doctor. The statement must be presented before your application can be completed. It should indicate specific vision problems and suggested restrictions, if any. A vision test is required on all original, lapsed, duplicate and, in some cases, renewal licenses. Everyone aged 65 and older is required to pass a vision examination every five years. Many people are not aware that they have vision problems. Test yourself on the chart below and you may save yourself some time. Place the chart six feet away in average room lighting and check each eye separately. Remember, this chart is to be used only as a guide and is in no manner official.



### Written Test

The written test will include:

1. ROAD SIGNS - You may be shown several common road signs and asked to tell what they mean.
2. WRITTEN QUESTIONS - You will be asked to answer a number of written questions based upon information in this handbook. The questions will be related to your specific type of license. CDL testing requires a specific written test or tests for the required license and/or endorsements. You are allowed to take two written tests in one day.

### Road Test

The examiner may require you to demonstrate your driving ability. If so, you must provide the vehicle to be used. It must be properly registered and comply with vehicle safety laws, including functioning safety belts. The vehicle may be rejected if its condition could cause harm to the examiner's person or clothes. The license applicant and the examiner are the only occupants allowed in the vehicle during the road test.

In addition to road rules and regulations, you will be judged on the use of proper driving techniques and other important elements of safe driving, such as your general behavior and attitude. During the road test, you will not be asked to do anything that is against the law. The following is a partial list of items on which you may be judged during the test:

- Driving posture
- Proper use of lanes
- Left and right turns
- Starting and stopping
- Attention at intersections
- Parking on hills and between cars
- Observance of traffic signs and signals
- Backing
- U-turns
- Steering
- Coordination

If you fail the road test, you will be expected to practice before taking another test. You may take only one road test in a day and may have to wait several days or weeks before attempting additional tests. The failure to pass the required tests in three attempts will result in having to pay another fee (two attempts for CDL). All tests must be completed within six months from the day you pay your fee. Any person may be asked to complete a road test if the examiner feels the applicant's ability to drive may be in question. Those applying for CDL must take a road test in the type of vehicle they will be driving. The CDL road test is a thorough test and is given only by appointment. Please call your local office for further information.

### Photo

After all requirements for a license have been successfully completed, a photograph will be taken and you will receive a finished license that day.

### Licensing Services

There are many services provided by the Driver License Division, including the following:

- Licenses
- Hearing impaired stickers
- Photo identification cards
- Utah Driving Records
- Allergy stickers
- Address changes
- Donor cards
- Voter Registration

### Donor Program

Your wishes regarding organ and tissue donation can appear on your driver license and Utah identification card by indicating your preference on your application. We suggest you obtain a donor card, available at the driver license office, and discuss your decision with your family. Your next of kin will not have to pay any costs as a result of your organ or tissue donation. You and your family should also understand that being a donor does not cause disfigurement, does not affect funeral arrangements and is permitted by most religions. For further information or to request donor cards, you may contact:

Intermountain Organ Recovery System  
(1-800) 833-6667 or  
Utah Lions Eye Bank  
(801) 581-2039

## LICENSES

### Original License

These licenses are for all newcomers to the State, all first-time drivers and all drivers who wish to change their operator "Class D" license to another class or "motorcycle only" license. The license will expire on the applicant's birthday five years after issue.

### Renewal License

You may apply for a renewal of your license up to six months prior to the expiration of the license. After passing the required tests, you will be issued a new license. It will expire on your birthday in five years. Military personnel who had a valid Utah license at the time of entry into the service may continue to use that license up to 90 days after discharge (this provision applies only to those military members stationed outside of Utah).

### Utah's Good Driver Program - Extension/Renewal by Mail

If you have not received more than four tickets for moving violations, no convictions for reckless driving, no suspensions, revocations or disqualification's in the past five years, and your license status is currently valid, you are eligible for the Utah's Good Driver Program. If the Division has record of your current address, you will receive an extension (renewal) application by mail approximately 90 days prior to your birthday. (NOTE: Commercial and school bus drivers may not extend/renew by mail.) You may extend your driver license through the mail only every other renewal period. If you continue to qualify for Utah's Good Driver Program but must renew in person at a driver license office, you will receive a renewal notice approximately 90 days prior to your birthday. The renewal process will include at least an eye test and photo.

### Lapsed License

Drivers who let their licenses expire must apply for a new license. Those individuals should also be prepared to complete all phases of the examination process, to include both the written and skills tests.

### Duplicate License

When you apply for a duplicate license, you must provide proof of your identity. At least TWO forms of identification such as those already listed will be required. In addition, an eye test must be passed and a new photograph taken. The expiration date of a duplicate license will be the same date as the license it replaces.

### Address Change

If you have a change of address, you are required by law to furnish the new address and your license number to a driver license office within TEN DAYS. This may be done by mail or in person. This is very important, especially if you are eligible for the "Extensional



Renewal By Mail" program, because the post office will not forward mail from the Driver License Division.

Utah Photo Identification Cards

Anyone may obtain a Utah State Identification Card. Proof of name and date and place of birth must be provided. In addition, you must furnish proof of your Social Security Number. Photo copies cannot be accepted. If an applicant is under 16 years of age, a parent or guardian must sign the application.

!!! Save your time and gas!!!

It is always unfortunate when people spend time and gas to come to one of our offices only to find that they cannot be helped for some reason. Here are some hints to avoid having that happen to you:

- 1. Arrive at least one hour before closing time to be able to complete processing, including taking a written test. More time is required if you need to take a road test. We cannot guarantee completion of required processing after closing time.
- 2. Road tests will not be given when conditions exist that could create unsafe driving. Those conditions include bad weather and unsafe vehicles, i.e., broken windshields or no seat belts.
- 3. Although you may pay for your license by either check or cash, there are a few things you should know to prevent any inconvenience. We cannot cash payroll or two-party checks. The check must be made payable to the Department of Public Safety and must be in the correct amount. If your check is returned by the bank without payment, you will be required to pay a \$20.00 service charge, if you wish to keep your driving privilege.
- 4. All learners who wish to take a driving test must be accompanied by a licensed driver.

**NOTE:** The Utah Criminal and Traffic Code requires that a driver must have a valid driver license in his/her immediate possession at any time when operating a motor vehicle.

Driver License Fees  
As of 7/1/98 (Nonrefundable)

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Original Utah license (under 21)   | \$20.00  |
| Original Utah license (over 21)  | \$15.00  |
| Motorcycle only license (under 21)   | \$22.50  |
| Motorcycle only license  | \$17.50  |
| Lapsed license   | \$15.00  |
| Renewal of license   | \$15.00  |
| Renewal of license (65 years and over)   | \$5.00   |
| Extension of license by mail   | \$12.00  |
| Extension of license by mail (65 years and over)   | \$3.00   |
| Duplicate license  | \$10.00  |
| Commercial Driver License  |          |
| Written test   | \$30.00  |
| Skills (driving) test  | \$50.00  |
| Endorsements   |          |
| Taxicab, tanker, hazardous materials, passengers, school bus, DBL/TPL, hazmat & tanker                 | \$5.00   |
| Motorcycle   | \$7.50   |
| Reinstatement fee after revocation (in addition to other required fees)                                | \$25.00  |
| Reinstatement fee - alcohol related  |          |
| Alcohol/Drug Administrative Fee  | \$150.00 |
| Fee after clearance of outstanding traffic tickets in effect at time of application for driver license | \$25.00  |

**Note:** Fees are subject to change

## CHAPTER 3

# RULES OF THE ROAD

### SPEED

In Utah, there is a "Basic Speed Law" which states that you may never drive faster than is reasonably safe. However, when there is no sign, and where no special hazards exist, the following speeds are permitted:

#### 20 miles per hour

1. When passing a school building or grounds during school recess.
2. While children are going to or leaving school during opening or closing hours or when flashing lights are operating.

**25 miles per hour** - In any business or residential area.

**45 miles per hour** - MINIMUM SPEED on a freeway under normal conditions.

**55 miles per hour** - On major highways, as posted.

**65/75 miles per hour** - On rural interstate highways. Because "rural" interstate is defined by census boundaries, it may be confusing to know which areas are 65 mph and which are 75 mph. "I thought this was a 75 mph zone" is not a valid response if you are pulled over. Remember, only when posted on interstate highways is 65 or 75 mph allowed. The 65/75 mph transition zones in Utah are indicated with pavement markings and additional signs.

In addition to the above speed limits, there are times when the law requires that you slow down. Some of those times include:

1. When approaching and crossing an intersection or railroad crossing.
2. When approaching and going around a curve.
3. When approaching the top of a hill.
4. When traveling upon any narrow or winding road.
5. When special hazards such as people walking beside the road, heavy traffic or dangerous road conditions exist.
6. During poor weather conditions. Driving on an icy road at 10 miles per hour or driving on an open highway on a rainy night at twenty-five miles per hour may be too fast.
7. Any time when you cannot see clearly.
8. In any highway work zones where construction, maintenance or utility work is being done.

On the other hand, **do not drive so slowly that you become a source of danger on the road.** Traffic officers are allowed to issue tickets if you are interrupting the normal flow of traffic.

### SIGNALING

Signals shall be given by the use of turn signals, stop lights or your hand and arm. Good drivers always signal their intentions well in advance. Signals are required:

1. For three seconds before turning.
2. For three seconds before beginning any lane change.
3. Any time you pull away from a curb.
4. When you intend to slow down or stop. Your brake lights will accomplish this if they are operating properly and can readily be seen. In addition, most cars have an emergency flasher system for use when your car is disabled on the highway. Use it.

*Signals for Stops and Turns*



### BACKING

Be especially careful when backing. Keep your vehicle on the right-hand side of the road and do not back unnecessarily long distances.



Make sure the way behind you is clear before you start backing. Do not interfere with other traffic on the highway. Always turn your head and look to the rear while backing. Do not back up on a freeway or interstate.



## PROPER USE OF LANES

As our Utah road system becomes more complex, the proper use of lanes becomes increasingly important. You should be aware of the laws concerning turns, lane changes, overtaking and passing.

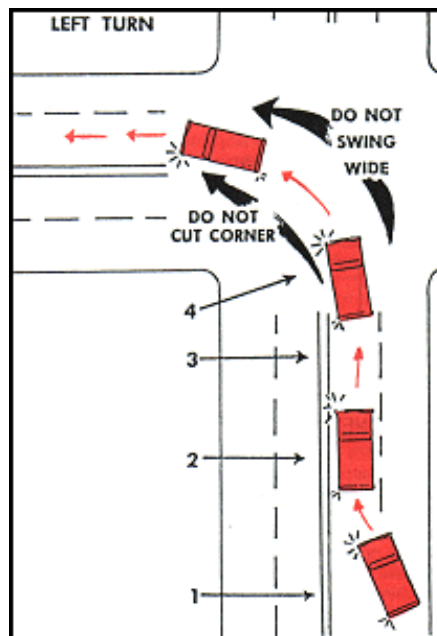
## Turns

A driver cannot safely operate a vehicle if he/she does not know how to make proper turns. In general, a good turn involves:

1. Making up your mind before you get to the turning point.
2. Signaling and safely moving into the proper lane well in advance of your turn. If you cannot get into the proper lane at least 100 feet before your turn, do not turn.
3. Giving the proper turn signal at least three seconds before reaching the point where you plan to turn.
4. Slowing down to a reasonable turning speed.
5. Making the turn properly. The following instructions and illustrations will help you make proper turns.

### How to Make a Left Turn

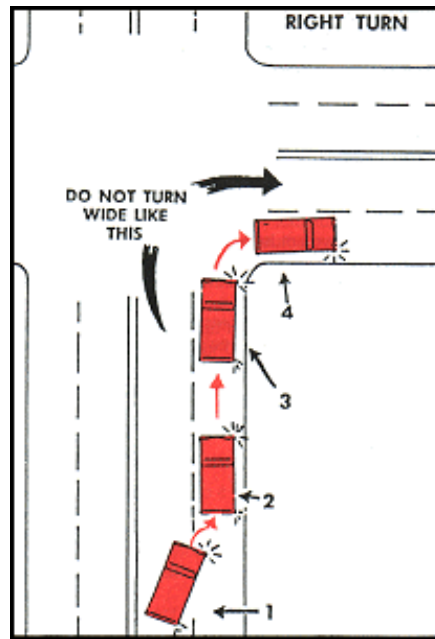
1. Far before reaching the corner, signal your intention to change lanes and move into the left lane.
2. Turn on the left turn signal and start slowing down at least three seconds before reaching the point where you wish to turn.
3. Look to the right and to the left before starting to make your turn.
4. Do not start turning until oncoming lanes are clear.
5. Enter the street onto which you are turning just to the right of the center line.
6. Do not turn from or enter into the right hand lane.



### How to Make a Right Turn

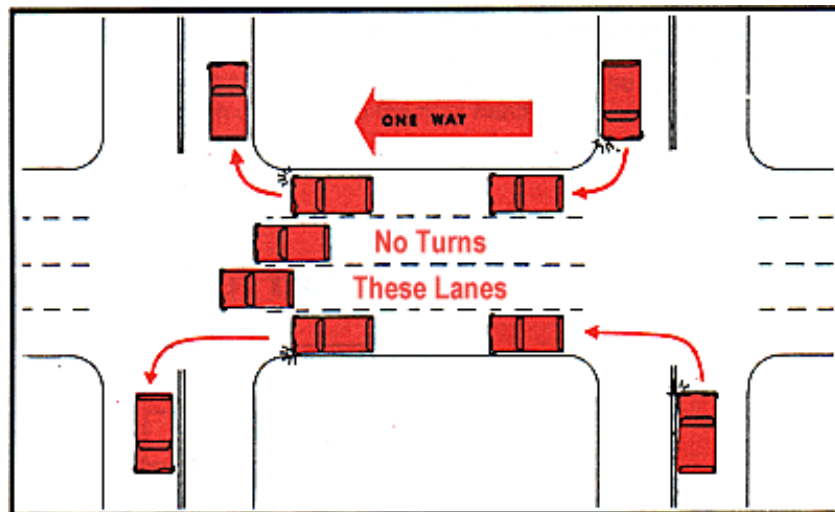
1. Well before reaching the point where you want to turn, signal a lane change and move into the right lane.
2. Turn on the right turn signal and start slowing down at least three seconds before reaching the corner.
3. Look in both directions before you start to make your turn.

4. Keep as close to the right as possible.



### Turn From a Two-way Street onto a One-way Street and From a One-way Street onto a Two-way Street

You may turn left onto a one-way street from a one-way street on a red light after first coming to a complete stop. (unless indicated otherwise).



### U-Turns

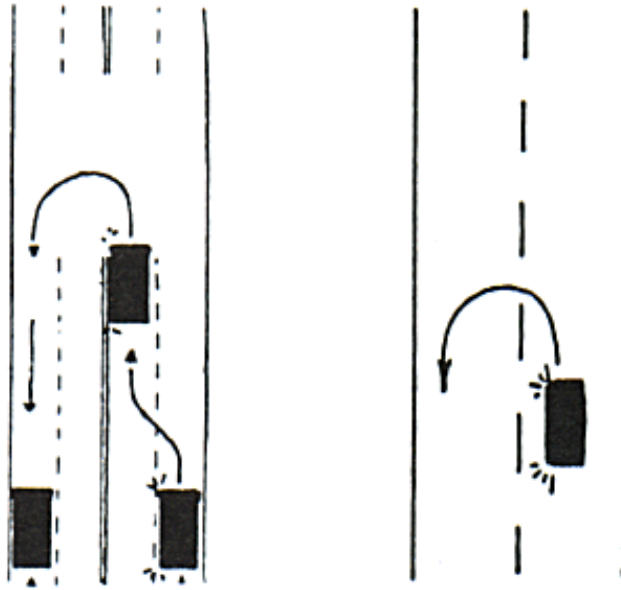
There are two times when you must never make a U-turn:

1. On any curve.
2. Near the top of a hill where you cannot see or be seen from both directions for 500 feet.

Each city has its own law concerning U-turns. Be sure you know the specific law of the city in which you are driving. A U-turn should only be made on a street or highway which is sufficiently wide enough to allow a turn to be made from the left hand lane or just right of the center line or center of the street.

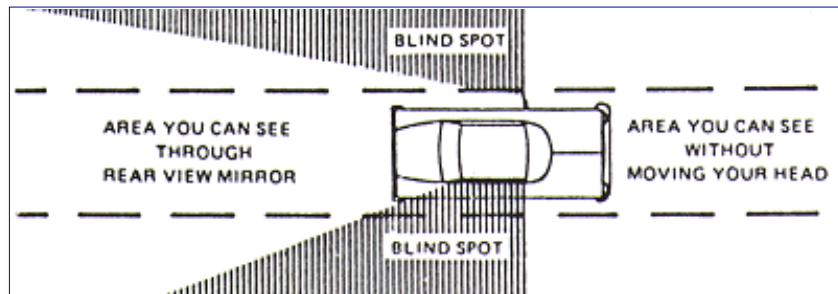
On a Multi-lane Two Way Road

On a Two-lane Two Way Road



## Changing Lanes

Many drivers feel that using only their mirrors to check for other traffic is adequate for changing lanes. The illustration below shows some "blind spots" which cannot be seen when using your mirrors. Many accidents are caused by drivers who fail to check these areas by looking over their shoulders.



To help avoid accidents caused by dangerous lane changes, we suggest that you practice the following simple rules:

1. Glance in your rearview mirrors. Be certain that no one is preparing to pass you.
2. Look over your shoulder in the direction you want to move. Be sure no one is near the left or right rear corners of your vehicle. These areas are "blind spots". To see the "blind spots", you have to turn your head and look.
3. Check quickly. Do not take your eyes off of the road ahead of you for more than an instant. The vehicle ahead of you could stop suddenly while you are checking over your shoulder.
4. Drive defensively by making sure your lane change can be completed safely. Be aware of the movements of all vehicles around you.
5. Whenever possible, maintain your speed when changing lanes. A driver who frequently speeds up or slows down creates a dangerous situation for all drivers on the road.
6. Try to help those drivers who check only their mirrors when they change lanes. One way to do that is to avoid driving in their "blind spots".

## OVERTAKING AND PASSING

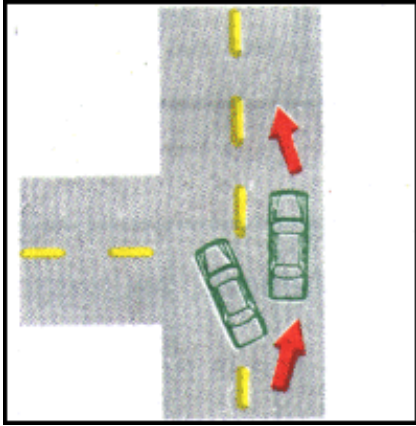
If you desire to pass another vehicle, do it safely and follow these suggestions:

1. Maintain a proper following distance as you approach the vehicle you intend to pass. A way to determine the proper following distance is to use the "two second rule" which means it should take your car at least two seconds to reach the same spot that the car ahead of you just passed.
2. Give proper signals.
3. Change lanes carefully. Do not forget to check your blind spots. If you are driving on a two-lane highway, do not start to pass if you cannot return to your side of the road safely.
4. After passing and before returning to the proper lane, check your blind spot again. Make sure there is plenty of room between

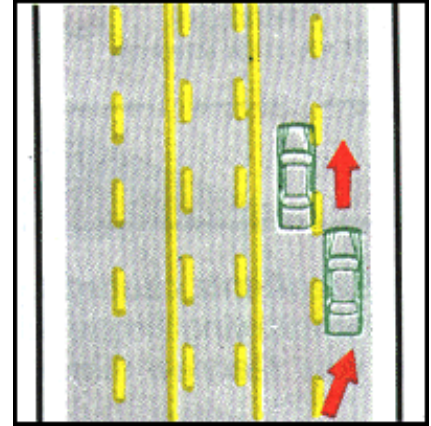
you and the car you have just passed. Avoid cutting in too quickly. A good rule is to wait until the vehicle you have just passed can be seen in your inside rearview mirror.

5. On a highway with two-way traffic, get back to the right-hand side of the road before coming within 200 feet of any vehicle approaching from the opposite direction.
6. You must yield the left lane on a multiple lane highway to vehicles approaching you from the rear.

There are only two times when you may pass to the right of another vehicle. They are shown in the illustrations below. Remember, it is illegal to leave the roadway when passing on the right.



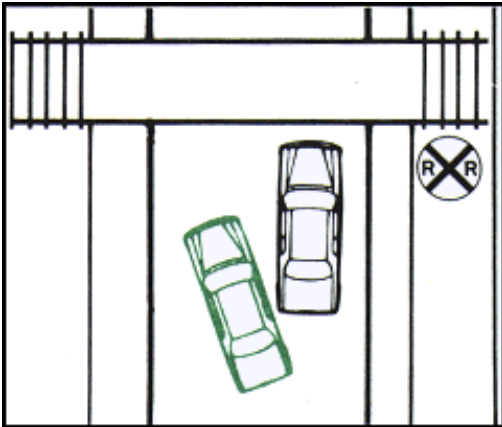
On a two-lane road when the vehicle you are passing is about to turn left.



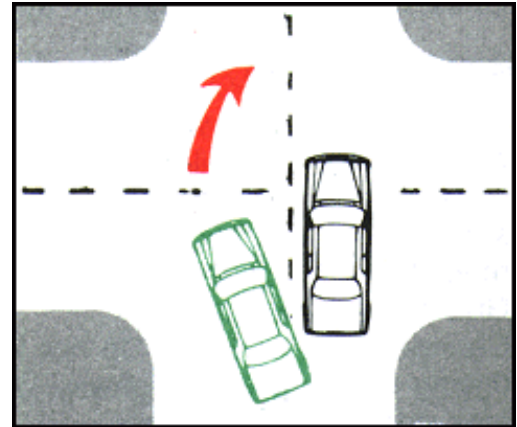
On a highway with at least two lanes moving in the same direction.

At all other times you must pass to the left. The following illustrations show situations when you may not pass.

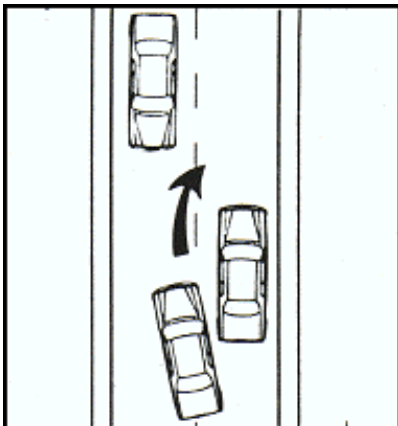
### DO NOT PASS



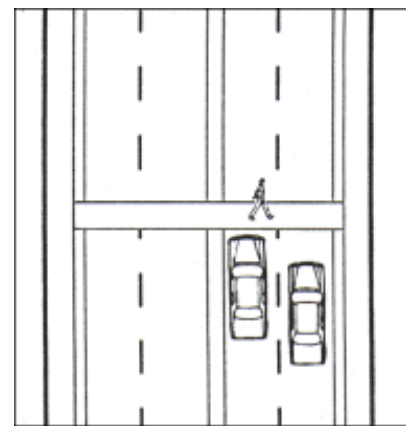
When approaching or crossing a railroad crossing.



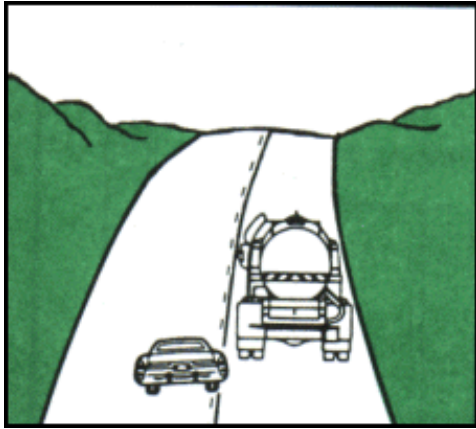
When approaching or while crossing an intersection.



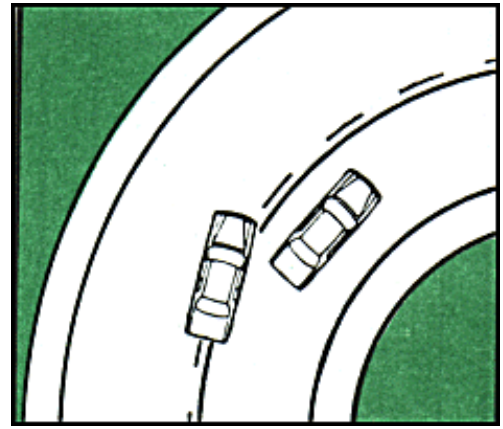
When another car is approaching.



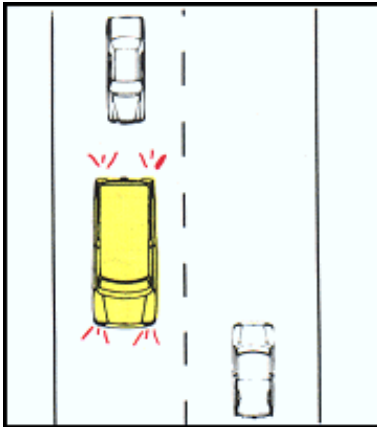
Another car stopped at a crosswalk.



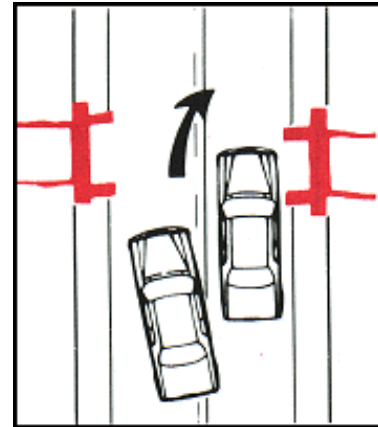
On hills.



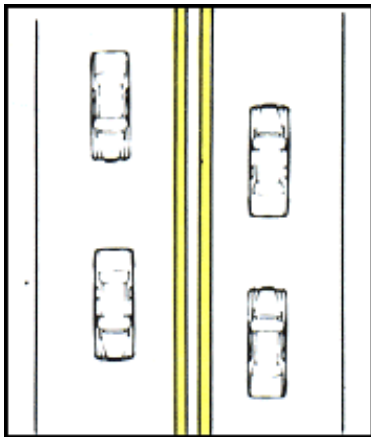
On curves.



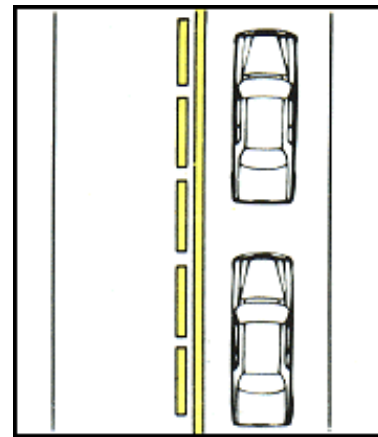
When school bus lights are flashing.



When approaching any bridge, viaduct or tunnel.



Over double yellow lines.



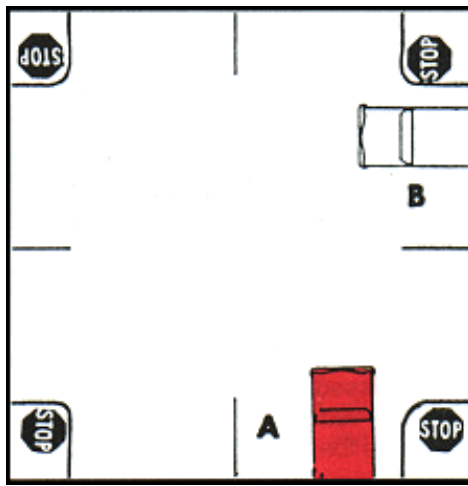
When a solid yellow line is in your lane.

## RIGHT-OF-WAY

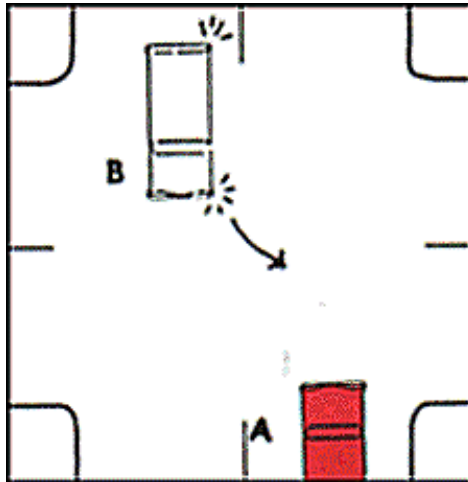
The other driver may be required to yield the right-of-way to you, but do not let your life depend on it. It is more important to avoid accidents than to insist on your right-of-way. The following are some rules to follow which will help you avoid an accident and could possibly save your life or the lives of others.

## Intersections

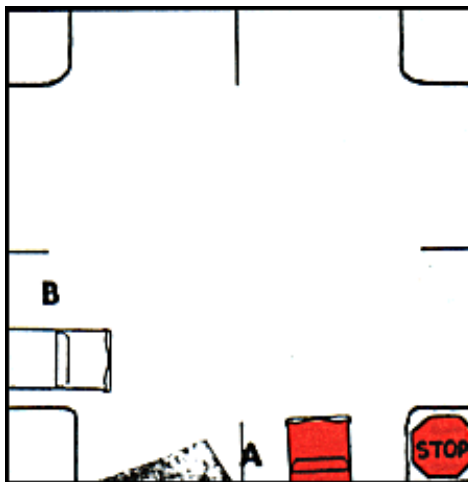
If you arrive at an intersection at approximately the same time as a vehicle from a different direction, the driver on the left shall yield the right-of-way to the vehicle on the right. For example, the intersection in the illustration below is controlled by four stop signs. Car A yields to car B because car B is on the right.



If you are in an intersection and want to turn left, you must yield the right-of-way to any vehicle approaching from the opposite direction. After yielding, you may turn left if it is safe to do so. In the situation shown below, car B must yield to car A.



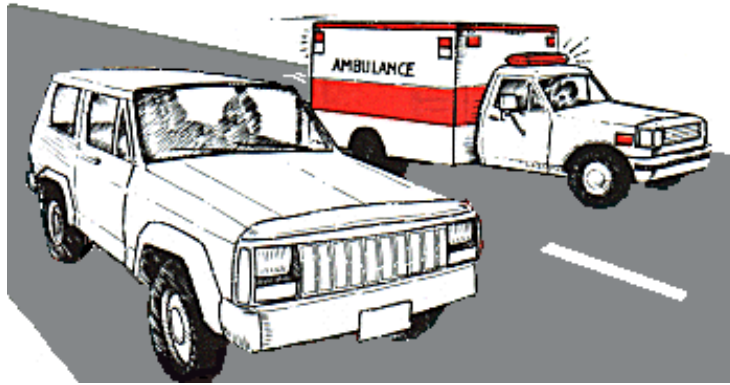
You must yield to vehicles from a different roadway if your corner is controlled by stop signs, yield signs or red lights. In the illustration below, car A must yield car B since the corner for car A is controlled by a stop sign.



## EMERGENCY VEHICLES

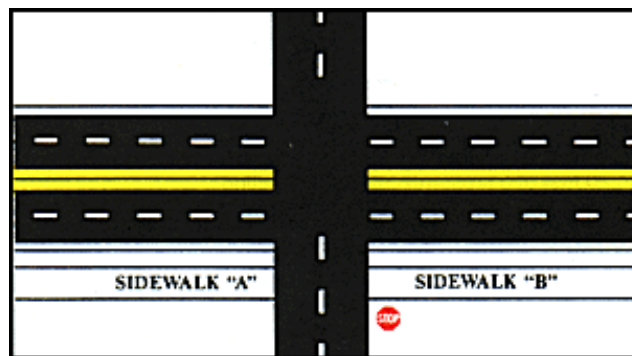
When police cars, fire engines, ambulances or other emergency vehicles approach using sirens, emergency lights or other warning devices, you **MUST YIELD** the right-of-way. **DRIVE AT ONCE TO THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE ROAD AND STOP** until the emergency vehicle has passed. Unless you are on official business, do not follow within 500 feet of any fire vehicle responding to an alarm. You may not drive or park on the same block where the fire vehicle has stopped to answer an alarm.





## Pedestrians

If a pedestrian is crossing the street in a "marked" or "unmarked" crosswalk, you must yield the right-of-way until he/she has reached safety. In addition, any vehicle crossing a sidewalk must yield to all traffic on the sidewalk. In the illustration below, the area from where sidewalk "A" ends and sidewalk "B" begins is a legal crosswalk, even though there are no painted lines. For this reason, it is called an "unmarked crosswalk".



## STOPPING

Many people seem to feel that a "rolling stop" is adequate when they are required to stop. The following situations are times when you must make a complete stop:

1. At a steady (non-flashing) red light or at a flashing red light.
2. At all stop signs.
3. At railroad crossings controlled by flashing signals, gates, a watchman, or stop signs. Stop more than 15 feet (but not more than 50 feet) away from the nearest rail until it is safe to continue. If there is a gate, wait for it to be raised.
4. If a school bus is displaying alternating flashing red light signals visible from the front or rear, all approaching or overtaking vehicles on the same roadway shall stop immediately before reaching the bus, and may not proceed until the flashing red light signals go off. Stopping is not necessary when meeting or passing a school bus traveling in the opposite direction when:
  - a. Traveling upon a divided highway.
  - b. The bus is stopped at an intersection or other place controlled by an official traffic-control device.
  - c. Upon a highway of five or more lanes, which may include a left-turn lane or a two-way left-turn lane.

NOTE: School bus drivers may report vehicles that improperly pass school buses. The report may be forwarded to the local law enforcement agency for investigation. Fines range from \$100 to \$500.

5. At the scene of any accident in which you may be involved as a driver. You must meet all legal requirements before you may leave the accident scene.
6. At any time any police or other peace officer may request or direct you to do so.
7. When coming onto a street or highway from an alley, private driveway, private road or from a building.



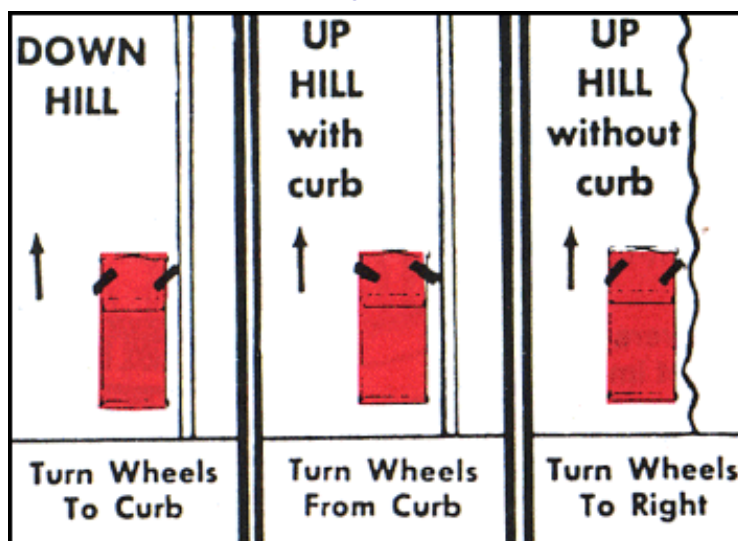
## PARKING

In the interest of public safety, there are several places where you are not allowed to park. These places include:

1. On a sidewalk.
2. In front of a public or private driveway.
3. In an intersection.
4. Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant.
5. On a crosswalk.
6. Within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection.
7. Within 30 feet of any flashing beacon, stop sign, yield sign or traffic control signal.
8. In an area which is posted for pedestrian use or within 30 feet of the edges of that area.
9. On any railroad tracks or within 50 feet of the nearest rail of a railroad crossing.
10. Within 20 feet of the driveway entrance to any fire station. Also, if signs are posted, you may not park on the opposite side of the road if you are within 75 feet of the fire station entrance.
11. Alongside or opposite any site excavation or obstruction when stopping or parking would block traffic.
12. On the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a street (this means that you cannot double park).
13. On any bridge or other elevated highway structure or in a highway tunnel.
14. At any place where official signs prohibit stopping.
15. On the shoulder of any interstate highway. These areas may be used only if your vehicle breaks down or you are in physical distress.

Many drivers avoid parallel parking or parking on a hill. You can increase your driving abilities and convenience by learning those skills. The hints listed below may help you become more proficient at parking, thus make you a better driver:

### Parking on a Hill



1. If you are parking uphill beside a curb, turn your front wheels away from the curb and let your car roll back so that the front tire touches the curb.
2. Never leave your vehicle until you have set the emergency brake, stopped the motor, removed the ignition key and locked the doors.
3. Pull as far off the road as reasonable to park. If parking next to a curb, the two wheels of your car must be no further than 12 inches away from the curb.
4. If your parking would block the flow of traffic, find another place to park.
5. If you are parked outside a business or residential area, your vehicle must be clearly seen from 200 feet in each direction.
6. A courteous driver never parks too close to another car. Parking too close to another car could result in damage to your car.

### PARALLEL PARKING





daytime use of the roadway, primarily to relieve traffic congestion for motorists. The hazards of driving through highway work zones are increased at night. Use extreme caution when driving through night work zones.

**Flaggers Instructions**

Flaggers and law enforcement officers are often used to give specific directions in work zones. Drivers should slow down and use extreme caution when approaching a flagger or officer. Follow all directions given by the flagger or officer.

**Work Zone Traffic Control Devices**

Highway work zones are set up according to the type of road and the work to be done on the road. Various traffic control devices are used in construction, maintenance and work areas to direct drivers and pedestrians safely through or around the work zone and provide for the safety of the highway workers.

The most commonly used traffic control devices are signs, barricades, drums, cones, tubes, and flashing arrow panels. The basic color used for most of these devices is orange.

**Road Work Signs**

Construction signs are used to notify drivers of unusual or potentially dangerous conditions on or near the traveled way. All temporary signs in work zones have an orange background and black letters or symbols. Most of these signs are diamond shaped, although some are rectangular.

## CHAPTER 4

# TRAFFIC SIGNS, SIGNALS AND ROAD MARKINGS

The use of signs, signals and pavement markings is an effective method of indicating right-of-way, direction of flow and warnings of dangerous conditions.

### SIGNS

In this country, widespread changes in highway and street traffic signs have occurred which affect every motorist and pedestrian. The United States has adopted an international-type system of traffic control devices which uses pictures rather than written messages. Understanding these signs is required for you to take advantage of necessary road information. All signs in Utah are placed in accordance with the manual on uniform traffic control devices

#### Some International Signs

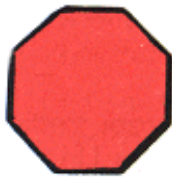


#### Color and Shape of Signs

If you can readily recognize the general type of a sign, you will be a better prepared driver. One indication of the meaning of an upcoming sign is its color. Some of the colors used on traffic signs are:

1. **Red** - can mean two things. It can indicate times when you must stop and it can also show times when certain traffic movements are not allowed. Red is one color used in regulatory signs.
2. **Black on White** - used for signs involving specific traffic laws. Speed limits and parking signs are good examples of how this regulatory color combination is used.
3. **Yellow** - indicates conditions under which extra caution must be used.
4. **Orange** - for highway construction and maintenance. Workers are usually present. Be alert and expect delays and possible sudden stops.
5. **Blue** - indicates services available.
6. **Brown** - indicates state or federal parks.
7. **Green** - indicates guidance such as exits or business loops.

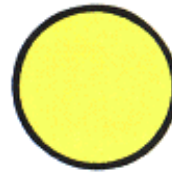
The shape of a sign is another valuable aid for the attentive driver. **Learn what the following signs are by their shape.**



**Stop**



**Yield**



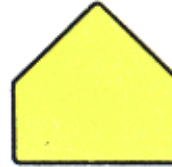
**Railroad  
Warning**



**Warning Sign**



**Regulatory**



**School**

Below are some examples of the various types of signs used on the streets and highways of Utah. Being familiar with them and knowing what they mean can help you be a safer driver.

### **Regulatory Signs**

The STOP sign is the only 8-sided traffic sign. It means that you must COME TO A COMPLETE STOP before entering the intersection ahead and yield to traffic close enough to be an immediate hazard. If there is a crosswalk, stop BEFORE entering the crosswalk.



**Regulatory Signs**

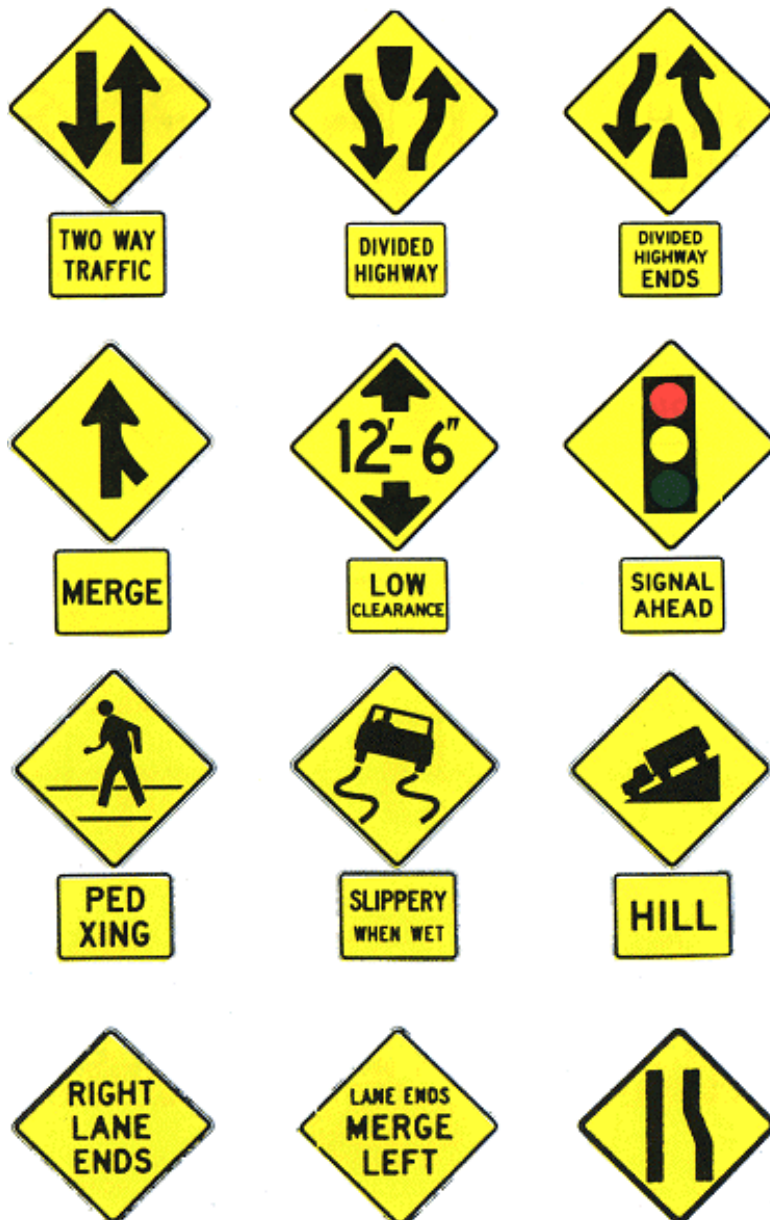




All animal-drawn vehicles and all vehicles designed for operation at 25mph or less must display the standard triangular "Slow Moving Vehicle" emblem.

This sign displayed on the rear of all pedestrian vehicles.

### Warning Signs





### School Warnings

School signs are located near schools for a good reason. Children are often not careful around traffic and do not understand the dangers of moving vehicles. These signs can help you avoid a possible tragic situation. Do not forget, the school speed law is 20mph.



School Crossing



School Zone

### Railroad Warnings



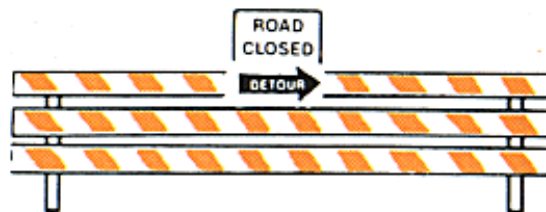
Railroad Advance  
Crossing



Railroad Crossing

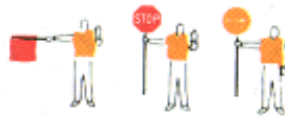
### Construction Signs

There are three types of barricades. Those with one or two bars indicate a hazard in the road and will indicate the direction you should go to avoid the hazard. Barricades with three bars (as shown in the illustration below) indicate the road is closed and the stripes indicate the direction you should go.



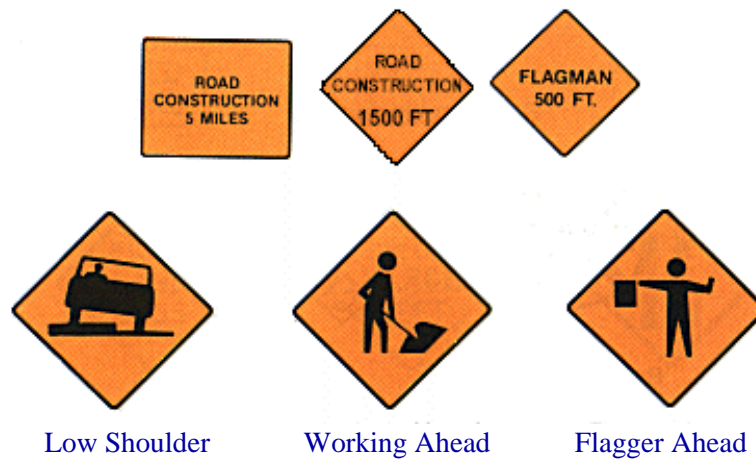
(The stripes slant down to the right, go to the right ---> If the stripes slant down to the left, go to the left. <--- )

Drivers must comply with official hand signal devices (flags, stop-and-go paddles, etc.) displayed by adult flag persons wearing appropriate uniforms and badges or insignia.



Below are six additional construction signs you may see while driving along our streets and highways.





Low Shoulder

Working Ahead

Flagger Ahead

## Services

A few of the most frequently seen signs indicating services available are shown



Handicapped  
Access

Phone

Hospital

Rest Area

## Mileposts

MILE  
4  
4  
4

Mileposts are erected along most State highways to assist you in pinpointing your location, to provide a means of identifying the location of accidents and other emergency situations, and to aid in highway maintenance and servicing. Zero mileage begins at the south and west State boundaries or at junctions where routes begin. The mileage numbers increase as you travel north and east.

## Route Markers

The illustrations below depict signs which you will see often. They are used to indicate the route on which you are traveling and routes which connect with the highway on which you are driving.



Interstate

State

U.S.

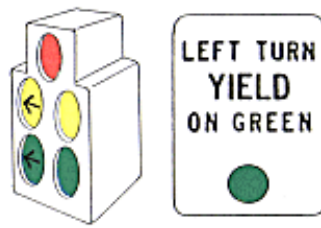
**NOTE:** Vandalism and destruction of road signs cost taxpayers thousands of dollars each year and cause confusion and unsafe conditions for you and other travelers.

## TRAFFIC SIGNALS

Traffic signals are placed at intersections where the volume of intersecting traffic is high. Their purpose is to promote the orderly flow of traffic by assigning right-of-way and to reduce accidents. Remember, traffic signals are effective only when drivers are alert and attentive to their driving.

## Protected/Permitted Signals

A new "style" of traffic signal has been implemented in Utah. It is called the protected / permitted signal. A driver turning left may see either the green arrow (protected) or the solid green light (permitted).



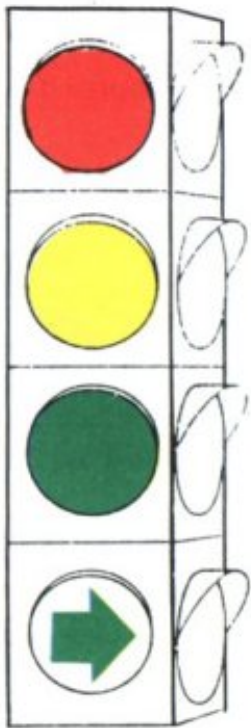
**Solid Green** - Treat the same as any other intersection. Turn left if there are no oncoming cars. The left arrow will not always come on.

**Solid Yellow** - If you are in the intersection making a left turn when the yellow light appears, proceed as soon as traffic allows and it is safe.

**Yellow Arrow** - Vehicles making left turns should clear the intersection. The protected phase is about to end.

**Green Arrow & Solid Red** - Vehicles turning left have the right-of-way and may make a "protected" turn. Do not go straight.

**Green Arrow & Solid Green** - Left turn is "protected". Vehicles moving straight and turning right may proceed.



### RED

You must bring your vehicle to a stop at a clearly marked stop line, at the nearest crosswalk or before entering the intersection. Remain stopped until the light turns green. You may make a right turn on a red light after coming to a **FULL AND COMPLETE STOP**, unless posted otherwise.

### YELLOW

Clear the intersection. It is an indication that the light is about to turn red.

### GREEN

Proceed if the intersection is clear. Yield to pedestrians and vehicles that are still in the intersection at the time of the light change.

### GREEN ARROW LIGHT

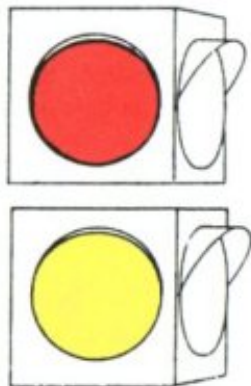
Vehicles may proceed only in the direction of the arrow after yielding to vehicles and pedestrians still in the intersection at the time of the light change.

### FLASHING RED

**COME TO A COMPLETE STOP!** Look both ways, yield to traffic and pedestrians and proceed when it is safe to do so.

### FLASHING YELLOW

Reduce your speed, exercise caution at the intersection and proceed through the intersection at a reduced speed.



### Special Situations at Traffic Lights

Regardless of what the traffic lights may indicate, you must always obey the instructions of a police or other peace officer at an intersection. For example, if the light is green and an officer tells you to stop, **YOU MUST STOP**. Also, even if you want to go straight and an officer indicates that you must turn, you are required to turn.

If you approach an intersection at which the traffic lights are not working, you must first **COME TO A COMPLETE STOP** before entering the intersection and yield the right-of-way to any vehicle on the right unless otherwise directed by a peace officer.

**NOTE:** "Not Working" means that the traffic lights do not light up.

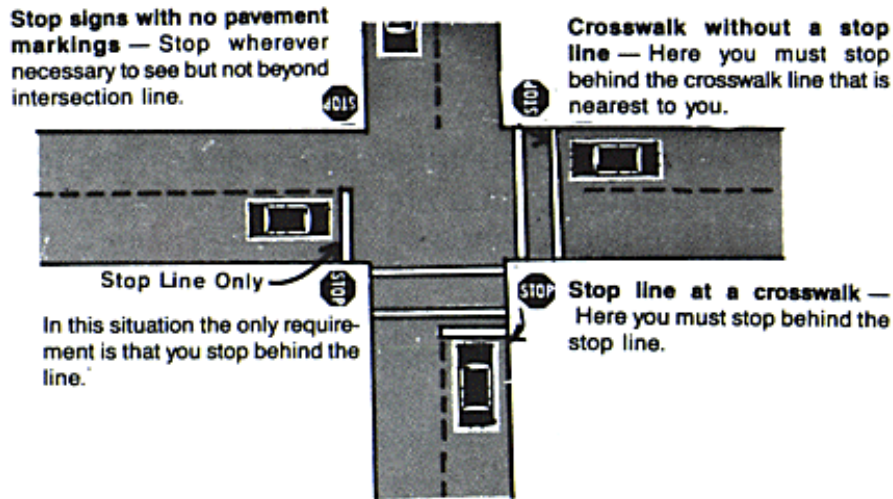
### PAVEMENT MARKINGS

Pavement markings are useful aids to the driver. They must be understood if you are to drive legally and safely.

#### Stop lines and Crosswalks

Stop lines and crosswalks are shown with white lines. The illustration below shows these markings and where you must stop in various situations.





After stopping at the stop line, you may need to slowly move your vehicle forward to a position which provides clear vision in both directions before entering the intersection.

### Color of Pavement Markings

The color of lane markings will give you an indication of what type of traffic you can expect to have on the roadway on which you are traveling.

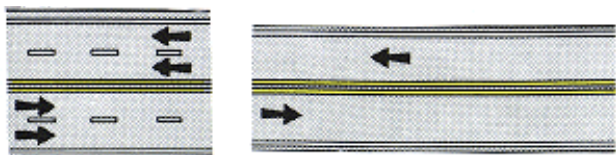


Lanes of traffic going in the same direction are divided with **WHITE** lane dividers. Examples would be multi lane and one way streets.

Lanes of traffic going in opposite directions are divided with **YELLOW** lane dividers.

### Pavement Markings to Regulate Passing

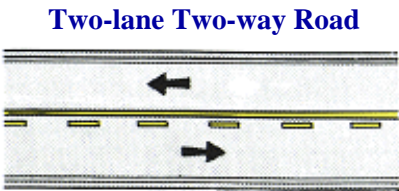
Remember, in both of the below illustrated situations, you may **NEVER CROSS A SOLID YELLOW LINE** to pass.



Multi-Lane  
Two-Way  
Road

Two-Lane Two-Way Road

In the illustration below, vehicles in the bottom lane may pass because there is broken line in their lane. However, vehicles traveling in the top lane may not pass because the solid yellow line is in that lane.



NOTE: In the above three illustrations, there is a white line painted on each side of the road. The area to the right of these lines is not meant for normal traffic use.

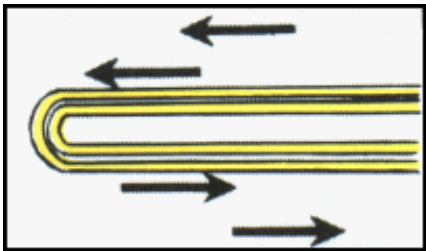
The single broken line, as shown below, means that traffic going in both directions may pass, but only if it is safe to do so.

Two-lane Two-way Road



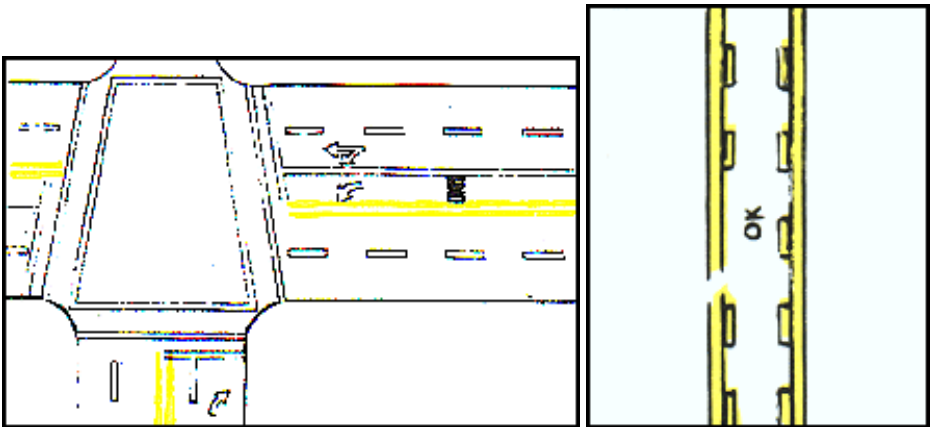
**Painted Islands**

The solid double yellow median is a pavement marking that does not designate a lane. These markings show a painted island. **DO NOT DRIVE OR STOP IN THIS AREA FOR ANY REASON.**



**Pavement Markings Indicating Turn Lanes**

The two illustrations shown below are examples of how pavement markings are used to indicate turn lanes. The picture on the left shows typical left and right turn lanes. Notice the use of painted arrows to show which way traffic may travel. The picture on the right shows a special purpose left turn lane. It is reserved for vehicles turning left off of or onto the roadway. You may not use this lane for passing or extended travel.



## CHAPTER 5

# BASIC DRIVING SKILLS

Just knowing the rules of the road is not enough. You need to develop special skills for special situations. One skill that is useful in all situations, however, is defensive driving. Defensive driving involves looking out for possible accidents and mistakes other drivers may make. It is important to learn how to be aware of everything that happens around you. Over half the drivers killed in two-car accidents in Utah were not at fault. A lot of people think that accidents happen only to the other guy. Remember that one person in four will be in some type of accident in the next four years. There are ways to reduce your chances of being that person. Studies show your chances of being in an accident will be much less if you take a defensive driving course. We suggest you call the Utah Safety Council (262-5400 ext. 305) for more information about these courses.

Even a defensive driver needs to have some special skills. These skills include freeway driving, night driving and emergency measures.

### **FREEWAY DRIVING**

Our freeway system is one of the best things we have going. A freeway gets us where we are going faster and safer than ever before. However, freeway driving is a skill in itself. People drive faster and conditions are not the same as in normal driving. We suggest ten "DO NOTS" for freeway driving.

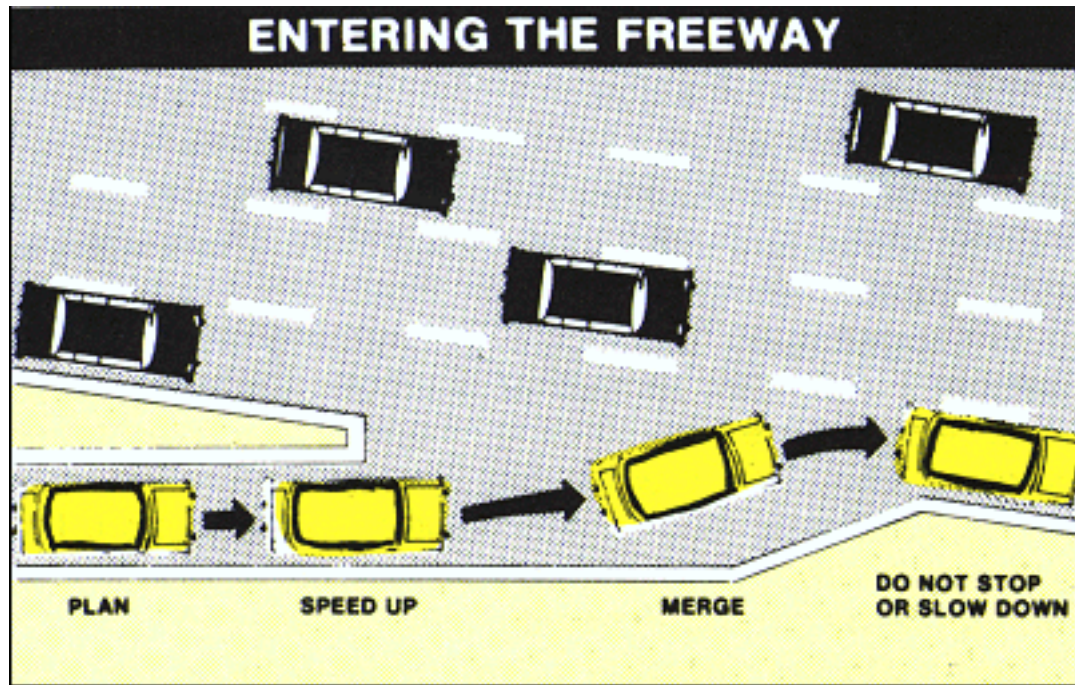
1. **Do Not Tailgate** - You must remain at a proper following distance. The old rule of one car length for every 10 mph of speed has been replaced with the new "two second rule". That means that you always remain at least two seconds in following distance behind the vehicle ahead of you. Under adverse conditions, the time needs to be increased.
2. **Do Not Make U-turns on the Freeway** - It is illegal.
3. **Do Not Drive in the Emergency Lane** - The area of the freeway on the outside of the solid white line is for emergency use only. It is illegal to pass another vehicle or to stop to pick up passengers in this lane.
4. **Do Not Insist on Going the Minimum Speed Limit During Bad Weather** - The minimum speed limit on the freeway is 45 mph. However, you must always consider the road conditions. You will not get a ticket for going under 45 mph in a blinding snow storm, but you could get a ticket for going over 45 mph if the conditions are unsafe.
5. **Do Not Drive so Slowly That You Block Traffic** - Slow driving is not always safe driving. If your speed is so slow that cars are piling up behind your car, you are unsafe, discourteous and breaking the law. In general, you should drive at a speed similar to that which the other cars around you are driving. However, **you may not legally drive faster than the posted speed limit.** This also applies to getting off the freeway. There is a lane which is part of the exit ramp and which is meant for slowing down. You should not start slowing down while still in freeway traffic.
6. **Do Not Use an Entrance Ramp to Exit the Freeway** - It is illegal, even in a traffic jam.
7. **Do Not Insist on the Right-of-way** - Don't let getting onto the freeway be a battle to the death. It doesn't have to be that way. If you are on the freeway and can safely allow a car on the entrance

ramp to enter traffic in front of you, do it. Common courtesy is not a painful experience. If you are entering a freeway, you should:

- a. Look for an opening while you are on the entrance ramp.
- b. Speed up to freeway speed while you are in the acceleration lane.
- c. Merge into the right-hand lane without disrupting the flow of traffic on the freeway. Do not force yourself into traffic.

You must wait until it is safe to enter the traffic flow on the freeway.

- d. **Do Not cross over the solid white line to enter a traffic lane.**



8. **Do Not Pass Unless it is Safe** - Drivers who force their way back and forth in traffic and do not signal or look where they are going are a danger not only to themselves, but to other drivers as well. To pass safely you should:
  - a. Change lanes only to pass, get off the freeway or to enter the correct lane for an upcoming route separation in the freeway.
  - b. Never force your way between cars. If everyone maintained a safe following distance, our freeways would run more smoothly.
  - c. Signal for three seconds before you change lanes.
  - d. Always check your blind spots before starting to move into another lane.
9. **Do Not Drive in the Left Lane** - The left lane on freeways is for passing only, unless there is heavy traffic. If another vehicle wants to pass you, you must move safely to the right and you may not increase your speed until the other vehicle has passed you.
10. **Do Not Hinder Other Traffic** - You may not impede or slow the movement or free flow of traffic in the left lane. (See #5 above.)



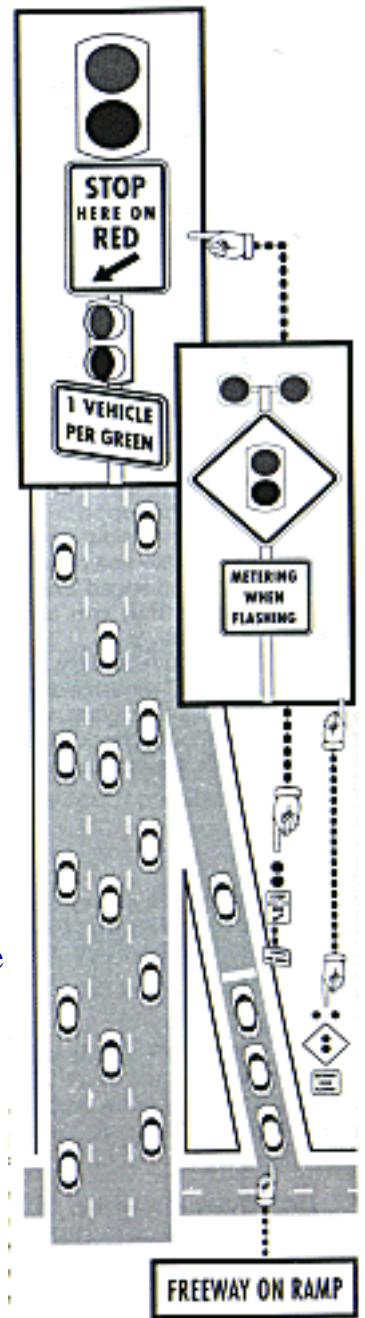
## RAMP METERING

**Why?** The population growth in Utah has resulted in an increase in the number of vehicles using our freeways. The result has been more frequent congestion and unpredictable travel times on our freeways. **RAMP METERS** will help prevent slowdowns and "stop-and-go" conditions that freeway travelers frequently encounter at certain times of the day. There are currently some ramp meters in Davis and Salt Lake counties and more will be added, as well as in Utah County.

**What are Ramp Meters?** Ramp meters look almost like traffic signals you see at intersections, except they have only red and green lights. Ramp meters are placed on freeway on-ramps and allow only one vehicle to pass each time the green light comes on. But the wait isn't long because the green light comes on again in just a few seconds.

**How Does Ramp Metering Help?** Ramp metering occurs only when many vehicles are attempting to enter the freeway. A lighted "METER ON" sign at the entrance to an on-ramp will indicate when ramp metering is in effect. If the "METER ON" sign is not illuminated, drivers are allowed to enter the freeway as usual. Because the "METER ON" sign is at the entrance to a freeway on-ramp, drivers will be able to decide whether to enter the on-ramp or take an alternate route and thereby avoid having to stop for the ramp meter. The ramp meter alternates between red and green every few seconds, allowing one vehicle to enter the freeway for each green light. If the line of vehicles waiting to enter the freeway gets too long, the ramp meter will automatically allow vehicles to enter the freeway more frequently.

**What are the Benefits?** Waiting on the on-ramp may take a few extra minutes, but that wait will usually pay off when you enter the freeway and find that traffic is moving quicker and smoother through areas where you previously experienced "stop-and-go" driving because of the number of vehicles trying to enter the freeway at the same time. However, if you travel only 3 to 5 miles on the freeway, it is possible that taking surface streets rather than the freeway will actually take less time, even if you do have to stop at some intersections.



## NIGHT DRIVING

When you drive at night, you are in an entirely new environment. It is easy to become disoriented because you no longer can use trees, houses or other objects to help judge your location or distances. Glaring headlights also hinder your judgment. Bicyclists and pedestrians may dart in front of your car without warning. You are more likely to become sleepy and cause an accident. For these and other reasons, night driving is an important skill you should develop. The following are some rules everyone should follow:

1. If a car is coming toward you, dim your lights before you get within 500 feet of the oncoming car.

If you are following a car, dim your lights when you are within 300 feet of the vehicle ahead of you.

2. Use your lights any time conditions keep you from seeing 1,000 feet ahead. These conditions include fog, stormy weather or dust.
3. Turn on your headlights no later than half an hour after sunset and keep them on until half an hour before sunrise.
4. If another driver does not dim his/her lights, dim yours anyway. Blinding the other driver to "get even" only results in two drivers not being able to see. If you do not look at the lights of the oncoming car, you should be able to maintain proper control of your vehicle and be able to continue your driving without mishap.
5. It is wise to slow down a little at night. The law requires that you drive at a "reasonable and prudent" speed. That means, especially at night, if you drive the posted speed limit, it may be too fast.
6. Be sure that you can stop within the distance that is lighted by your headlights.
7. Do not drive at night with a dirty, foggy or icy windshield. Although not safe at any time, windshields which are not clear at night will cause headlights and other lights to glare, which may result in the driver being blinded.
8. You should check all of your lights often to see whether any of the lights or signals are not functioning properly.

## **STAYING AWAKE**

When you are tired, your ability to drive is affected. You will probably not be able to make decisions as quickly, your reaction time will be increased and you may become upset more easily. You may even fall asleep at the wheel. The following are some tips that may help you drive more safely at night:

1. Get a good night's sleep before you start a trip.
2. Do not take any drugs that can make you sleepy. Drugs taken the night before a trip can remain in your body and cause you to be less alert the next day.
3. Do not drive for long hours or distances - 300 to 400 miles a day is plenty. The time you save is not worth the risk of driving when your reaction time is slower and your power of concentration is less.
4. Try not to drive late at night. Your body is probably used to going to sleep at that time and your reaction time will be increased.
5. Take rest breaks regularly, even if you don't feel tired. Let someone else drive part of the time. Stop for a bit of refreshment every 100 miles or every two hours of driving time.
6. Shift your eyes from one part of the road to another. Try to enjoy the scenery without neglecting your driving. Look at objects near and far, left and right.
7. Chew gum or sing along with the radio.
8. Roll down your window and get some fresh air.

## **EMERGENCY MEASURES**

If you think about emergencies and plan for them before they happen, you will be less likely to panic and will know what to do if they do occur.

## **Tire Blowout**

Do not slam on the brakes. Let your car roll so that you can steer more easily. Hold the wheel tightly and slowly apply your brakes. When you have slowed down enough, pull all the way off the road. Pick a level spot if possible, turn on your emergency flashers and change the tire.

## **Brake Failure**

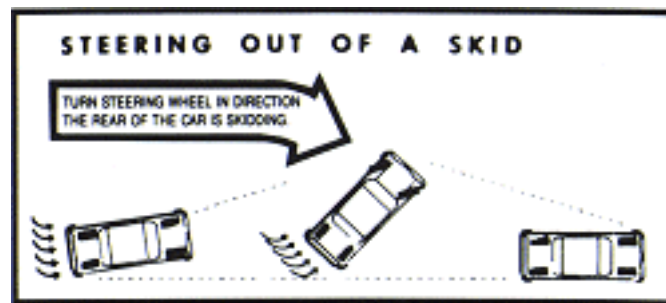
Try to get some brake pressure by pumping the brake pedal. Shift to a lower gear to help slow down the car. Try to slow down and stop by using your parking brake. If you still cannot stop and are going downhill, try to drive into heavy bushes, snow or a sand bank.

## **Skidding**

Most of us think of ice and sand when we think of skidding. Remember that skidding can also happen on roads that are wet. Your car may start to "hydroplane" at speeds over 35 mph. Hydroplaning occurs when your front tires start to ride on water instead of the road. As you go faster, the problem becomes worse and you will lose control of your steering.

In Utah, we also have a special problem with "black ice". Black ice is very difficult to see on the roadway and appears more like a wet spot than a patch of ice. Unfortunately, many people die each year from skids caused by black ice.

The best policy is to keep a skid from happening. Slow down to a speed at which you can control the car. If you do skid, slowly take your foot off the gas pedal. If your rear wheels skid to the right, turn your front wheels to the right. If the rear wheels skid to the left, turn left. Do not steer too far though, as that will make the car skid in the other direction. Do not slam on your brakes. Once your car regains traction, straighten out your wheels.



## **Car Stalling on the Highway**

Turn on your emergency flashers immediately and move your car off the road as soon as you can. If your car is near a traffic lane or where it is hard to be seen, get everyone out and away from the car. If you have them, use flares to warn other drivers. (It is a good idea to always have flares in your trunk.)

## **Headlight Failure**

Slow down and get off the road. Use your flares or other emergency warning devices to warn other drivers. Check the terminals on the battery to see if they are loose. NEVER drive at night without lights.

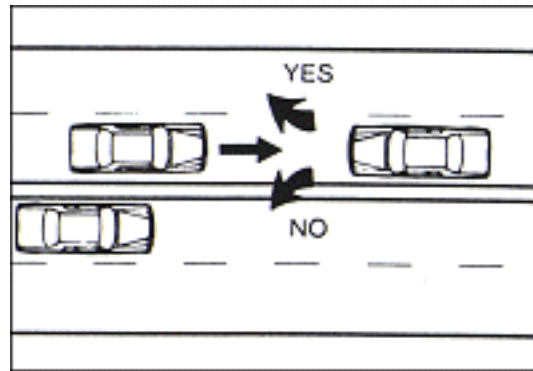
## **Gas Pedal Sticks**

Put your car into neutral or push in the clutch. Pull off the road and turn off the engine.

## **Car Coming Towards You in Your Lane**

Honk your horn or blink your lights. The other driver may be asleep. If this does not work, swerve to the

**RIGHT**, if possible. Avoid swerving into the oncoming lane or traffic. If the other driver wakes up, he/she will probably try to move the car back into the original lane of travel. If you are in that lane because you swerved the wrong direction, you may end up in a head-on collision.

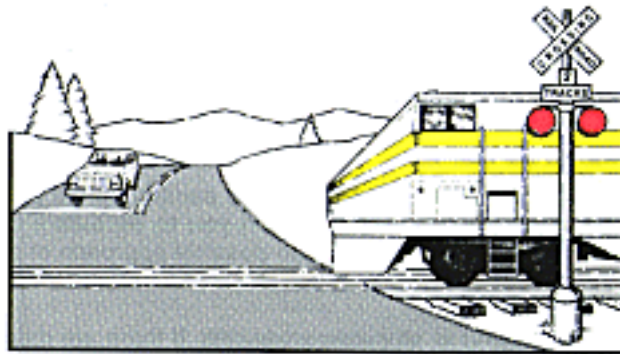


### **Bothersome Situations**

Sometimes while driving you may drop something, lose a contact lens, be stung by a bee or be bothered in some other way. Some people panic when something like this happens. They become more concerned with the problem than about their driving and often run off the road or into the car in front of them. Don't let this happen to you. If you have a problem or there is a distraction, pull over to the side of the road immediately and then take care of the problem.

### **If You Need Help**

Pull to the side of the road, turn on your emergency flashers, raise your hood and tie something white or orange on the antenna or left door handle.



## **RAILROAD CROSSINGS**

As the number of drivers increases, more and more people die at railroad crossings. In a car-train collision, the odds that those in the car will live are not very good. Learn what to do at railroad crossings so that you do not have a collision. Use extreme caution at all railroad crossings and remember:

- Always slow down when you come to a railroad crossing.
- Never pass a car that is going your direction at a railroad crossing.
- Do not park closer than 50 feet from a railroad crossing unless signs indicate that you may or it is allowed by local law.
- When you stop at a crossing, you must be between 15 and 50 feet from the nearest rail.



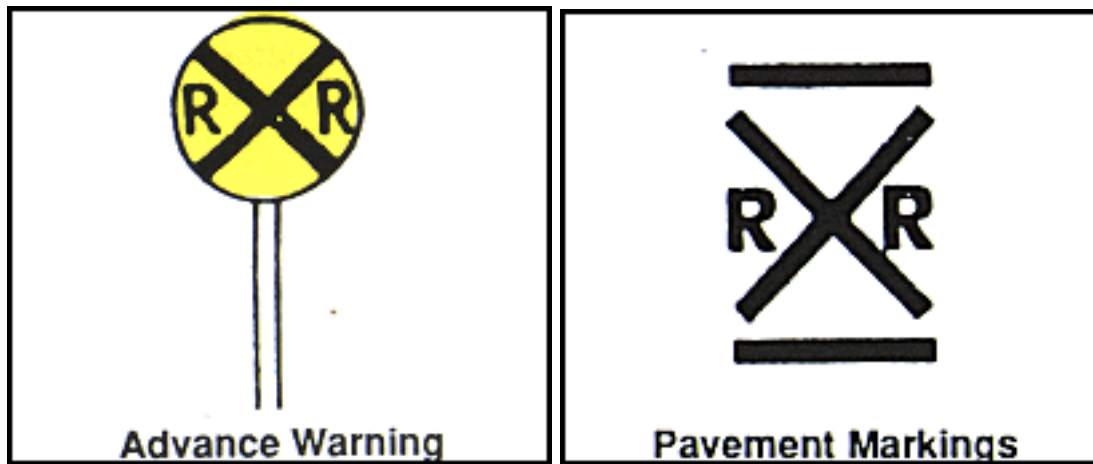
- Trains sound their horns as they approach a crossing; therefore, turning down the car radio is a good safety measure.
- Every railroad crossing should be taken seriously.
- At night, do not assume that a train is not coming just because you do not see any light. Slow down or stop and look before crossing the tracks.
- If lights are flashing, stop, look, then proceed cautiously unless a train is coming or the gates are down.

## Warning Devices

Public railroad crossings have been marked with warning devices for your safety by highway departments and the railroad companies. Learn what the warning devices are and watch for them. With these warning devices and caution on your part, railroad crossing crashes may never happen.

## Advance Warning Signs

Advance warning signs are posted before you reach the crossing and tell you to slow down, look, listen and be prepared to stop at the crossing ahead.

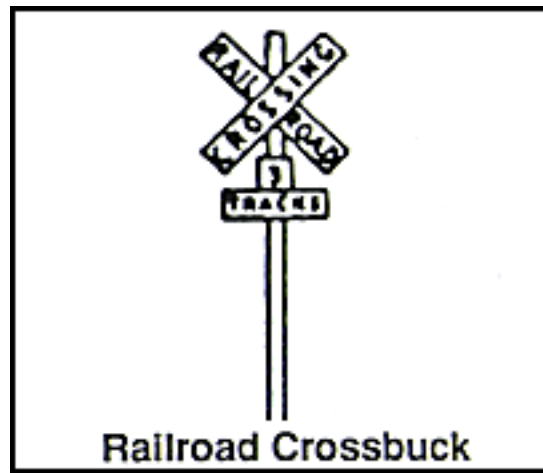


## Pavement Markings

A stop line, an "X" and the letters "RR" may be painted on the pavement in front of railroad crossings. These markings warn you to be aware of the crossing ahead and to pay particular attention to the possible approach of a train.

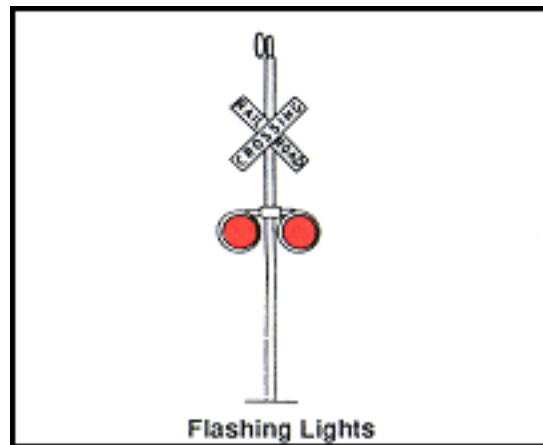
## Railroad Crossbuck Signs

Crossbuck signs are found at all public crossings. If there are more than one set of tracks, a sign below the crossbuck indicates the number of tracks. Be prepared to stop at the tracks if a train is coming. **You must yield to train traffic.**



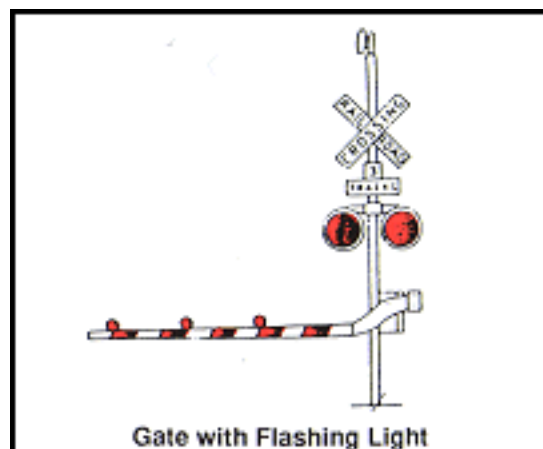
### Flashing Lights

Flashing lights and bells are used with crossbuck signs at many railroad crossings. **Always STOP when the lights begin to flash or bells begin to ring, which mean a train is coming.** If there are more than one set of tracks, make sure all tracks are clear before starting to cross.



### Gates

Gates are used with flashing light signals at some railroad crossings. **Stop** when the lights begin to flash and before the gates begin to lower across your lane of traffic. Remain stopped until the gates are raised and the lights stop flashing. **DO NOT DRIVE AROUND THE GATES.**



## Special Vehicles

1. **Motorcycles and Bicycles** - Riders should approach a railroad crossing with caution. Do not swerve to get a better angle for crossing.
2. **School Buses** - Drivers are required to stop at all railroad crossings. The driver must check both directions and listen for approaching trains, proceed only when it is clearly safe to do so and never shift gears on the crossing.
3. **Trucks Carrying Hazardous Materials** - Drivers are required to stop at all railroad crossings. Drivers should make a safe, gradual stop to minimize the possibility of causing an accident. Do not shift gears when crossing the tracks. When possible, reroute away from railroad crossings or use a crossing which utilizes flashing red lights and/or gates.

## SAFETY TIPS FOR USING RAILROAD CROSSINGS

### Expect a Train on Any Track at Any Time

Most trains do not run on a fixed schedule. Be cautious at a railroad crossing any time of the day or night.

### Don't Get Trapped on a Railroad Crossing

Don't drive onto a railroad crossing until you are sure you can clear all the tracks safely. Once you have started across the tracks, keep going, even if you see a train coming. Do not shift gears while crossing tracks - your car could stall.

### Get Out of Your Vehicle if it Stalls

If your vehicle stalls on a crossing, immediately get everyone out of the car and off the tracks. Notify local authorities immediately. If a train is coming, stay clear of the tracks and **RUN TOWARD THE APPROACHING TRAIN** at an angle away from the train. By moving toward the train, no one will be hit by flying debris. If no train is in sight, post lookouts and try to start or move the vehicle.

### Watch Out for Second Trains

When the last car of a train passes the crossing, do not proceed until you are sure no train is coming on another track, especially from the other direction.

### Never Drive Around Gates

If the gates are down, stay in place and do not cross the tracks until the gates are raised and the lights stop flashing. It is against the law to drive around gates.

### Never Race a Train

Racing a train to the crossing is foolish. You will never have another chance if you lose.

### Watch for Vehicles That Must Stop at Railroad Crossings

Be prepared to stop when you are following buses or trucks which are required to stop at railroad crossings.

### Don't Misjudge the Speed and Distance of the Train

The large size of engines and trains make them appear to be moving much slower than they really are. If there is any doubt, stop and wait for the train to pass.

### At Night be Especially Alert at Railroad Crossings

Be sure you can stop within the distance illuminated by your headlights. Also be aware that lights on

trains can malfunction and you might not see an approaching train until it is too late.

### **Be Especially Careful and Reduce Speed for Obstructions**

Use common sense. If your view of the tracks is blocked, slow down and proceed with more caution than normal.

## **Light Rail**

Utah's first light rail transit system is now under construction and will be completed in the year 2000. The 15-mile system will run from 10000 South in Sandy, to the Delta Center in downtown Salt Lake City.

Thirteen miles of the light rail system will operate in the former Union Pacific railroad corridor located to the east of I-15 in Salt Lake County. The last two miles will run down the center of 200 West, 700 South, Main Street, and South Temple in downtown Salt Lake City.

Light rail cars receive power from overhead electric lines. Each car is approximately 80 feet long and weighs more than 88,000 pounds. Trains may be from one to four cars long.

**Light rail cars accelerate very quickly.** A light rail car can accelerate to **55 miles per hour in just 19 seconds**. Most light rail trains will operate at 55 miles per hour within the railroad corridor. Trains will operate at 25 miles per hour on the streets in Salt Lake City. Do not pull in front of light rail trains or drive on the tracks in the Central Business District.

Once the flashing lights and crossing arms are activated at grade crossings, the trains will pass through intersections **in just a matter of seconds**. Crossing arms will be down for only 30 to 40 seconds as the light rail passes.

**DO NOT TRY TO BEAT THE LIGHT RAIL TRAIN THROUGH A RAILROAD CROSSING.**

### **Typical Light Rail Signs**



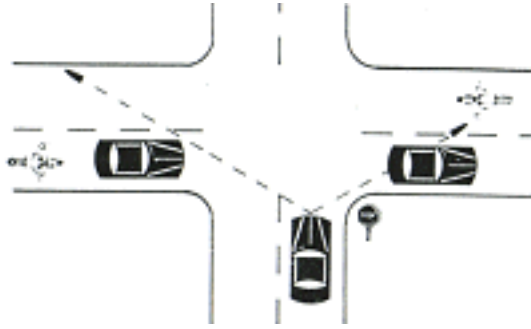
## **MOTORCYCLES**

Motorcycles are hard to see, often stop more quickly than cars and can dart in front of you with no warning. For these reasons, car drivers who are not constantly alert to and aware of all situations around them are responsible for many auto-motorcycle crashes. Remember that motorcyclists will almost certainly be badly hurt or killed if they are in a crash. The following hints may help you save a life.

### **Intersections**

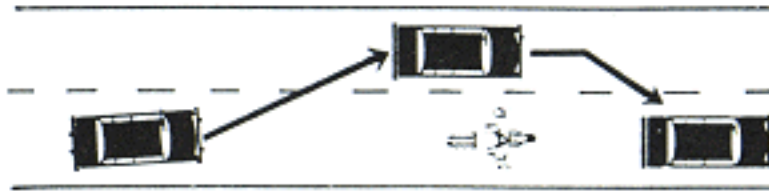
When you are waiting at a corner, it can be very hard to see a motorcycle coming. Motorcycles can be hidden by many things such as other cars and trees. In addition, you are normally looking for cars and trucks, not something small like a motorcycle. The illustration below shows two situations in which you might have difficulty seeing a motorcycle. For these reasons, check carefully as you enter an intersection and keep looking all the way across the intersection.

## ALWAYS LOOK FOR MOTORCYCLES



### Following and Passing Motorcycles

Since motorcycles don't perform the same as cars, you should be careful when following or passing one. Keep more distance between you and a motorcycle you are following than if you were following a car. Motorcycles can usually slow or stop much faster than a car or truck. When passing a motorcycle, move all the way into the next lane. The motorcyclist not only has a legal right to the entire lane, but also may have to swerve suddenly to avoid hitting something in the lane. After passing a motorcyclist, be sure you have plenty of distance between you and the motorcycle before you return to the lane occupied by the motorcyclist.



### SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

People walking, jogging, riding bicycles or operating pedestrian vehicles on the road can cause special problems for drivers. Besides being hard to see, they sometimes do the unexpected. As a driver, you must always have your car under control and be ready to react to any sudden action of others using the roadway.



### BICYCLES

Bicycle riders on public streets and highways have the same rights and responsibilities as automobile

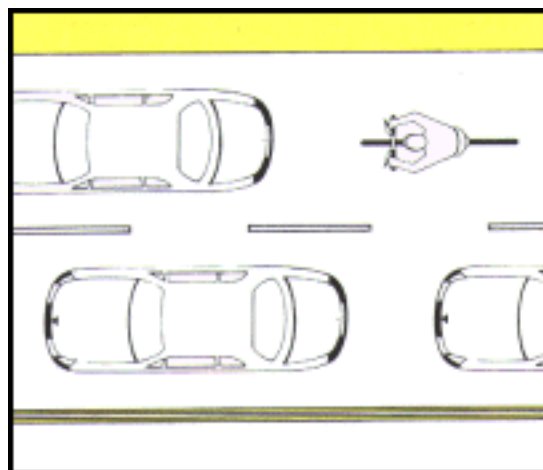
drivers. Drivers of motor vehicles must treat bicycle riders the same as drivers of other vehicles. Bicyclists are not out of place on the roadway - they are part of the traffic and share the road with other drivers. They must obey stop signs, traffic lights and most other traffic laws and signs. Special care must be used near bicyclists because any collision with them may result in serious injury. This means that automobile drivers must leave safe passing room and must not turn so close to a bicyclist that he/she is in danger of being hit.

Although bicyclists will normally ride near the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway, they can legally move left to turn left, to pass a vehicle or another bicycle, or to avoid debris or parked cars. They may have to swerve suddenly to avoid a car door being opened in their lane of travel. Expect any of these moves by bicyclists in a regular traffic lane. Remember, on one-way streets, bicyclists can also ride near the left curb.

The relatively small size of bicycles makes it difficult for drivers to see them in traffic. Parked cars or other roadside objects may limit the ability of both the bicyclist and the motorist to see each other. Drivers need to remember that a bicyclist is hampered by road hazards that may not be easily noticed by drivers of cars and trucks. Hazards that could cause problems for a bicyclist include potholes, glass, litter, storm grates and railroad crossings, as well as opened doors of parked vehicles. Any of these items could cause a bike rider to move into your path or to slow down. You should give bicyclists plenty of clearance on the street so they will have room to maneuver around these types of hazards.

Bicyclists must use reasonable care and keep a constant lookout for other vehicles in traffic. However, some bicyclists are less experienced than others and their actions will be less predictable. Look for signs that may tell you when a bicyclist is inexperienced, such as whether the bicycle rider is riding in a smooth and straight manner or is weaving and wobbling.

Children on bicycles can create some special problems. They cannot see things out of the corner of their eyes as well as adults can. Therefore, even though children glance toward you, they may not actually see you before they pull out in front of you. They also have trouble judging the speed and distance of oncoming cars and they lack a sense of danger. They believe that adults will look out for them. Be aware that their actions could be very unpredictable.



## **Sharing the Road With Bicyclists**

Motorists should take the following precautions when sharing the road with bicyclists:



1. Do not drive in a bicycle lane except when making a turn, entering or leaving an alley, private road or driveway, or when you need to cross the bicycle lane to park near the curb. Do not park in a bicycle lane. Dedicated bicycle lanes are marked with solid white lines.
2. When changing lanes or making turns, check for bicyclists in your blind spot.
3. You must yield to bicycles in a bicycle lane or on a sidewalk prior to turning across the lane or sidewalk.
4. At intersections, you must yield to bicycle riders on the road, the same as for other types of vehicles.
5. Do not crowd bicyclists. When the lane is too narrow to pass a cyclist safely, wait until the next lane is clear and give the bicycle all the rights of any other slow moving vehicle.
6. Pass a bicycle in the same manner you would a car. You must allow at least three feet clearance when overtaking and passing a bicycle. Do not pass a bicycle in the same lane.
7. Dim your headlights within 500 feet when approaching or overtaking bicyclists at night. The bike rider could be blinded by the glare.
8. If parked at a curb, do not open a door on the traffic side of your vehicle without looking for other vehicles, including bicycles.
9. Do not honk or yell at a bicyclist except in an emergency. The loud noise could startle the bicycle rider and cause him/her to spill the bike. There may be good reason for the bicyclist to be riding in the travel lane, such as roadway hazards not clear to motorists.
10. **BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL AROUND CHILDREN RIDING BICYCLES.**
11. Be aware that riders cannot always hear approaching vehicles. Passing closely and rapidly can startle bicycle riders.
12. Over 39,000 bicyclists are killed or injured in the United States every year. Bicyclists have the same rights on the road as cars. Be cautious and courteous when you approach someone on a bicycle.

## **Riding Rules**

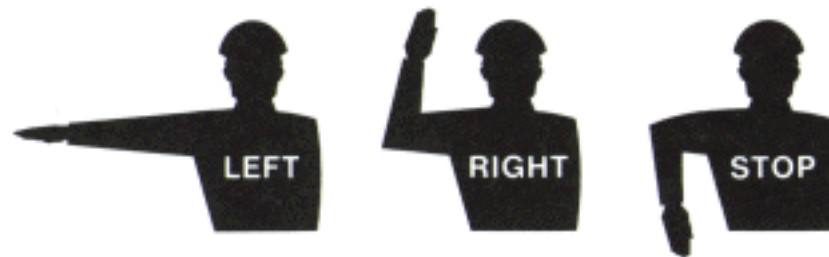
1. Bicyclists must ride with the flow of traffic and as near to the right side of the road or street as is safe and practical. On a one-way street in a city, a bike rider may ride as near as possible to either the right or left side of the street or roadway.
2. There are some exceptions to the above rule, such as when a bicyclist is overtaking and passing another bicycle or vehicle or when a bicyclist is getting ready to make a left turn. A bike rider should ride in the middle of the traffic lane if the lane is too narrow to let a bicycle and vehicle travel side-by-side or if riding close to the edge of the roadway is unsafe because of parked vehicles, fixed or moving objects, animals or road surface hazards. When lane width permits, bicyclists may ride two abreast.
3. When riding upon a sidewalk or in a crosswalk, bicyclists have all the rights and duties applicable to pedestrians under the same circumstances. When riding a bicycle on a sidewalk or crosswalk, bike riders must ride slowly, **must yield the right-of-way** to any pedestrian and shall give an audible signal before overtaking and passing a pedestrian.
4. Individuals riding a bicycle may not attach it or themselves to any moving vehicle upon a street or highway.



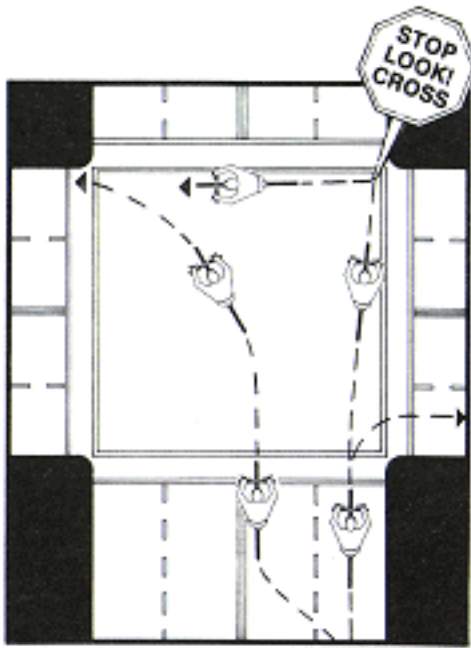
5. A bicycle may not be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed or equipped, except that an adult rider may carry a child securely attached to his/her person in a backpack or sling. There are trailers and child seats specifically designed for bicycles which provide good security for the children and would be less cumbersome for the rider. The Utah Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatricians **STRONGLY** recommends the use of approved bicycle carriers or trailers for young children when they ride with adults. It is recommended that all children and adults always wear a helmet when on a bicycle. The force of impact of a person's head hitting the ground from a nonmoving bicycle is 12 mph.
6. Bicycle riders may not carry any package, bundle or article which prevents the use of both hands in the control and operation of the bicycle. Bicyclists **MUST KEEP AT LEAST ONE HAND ON THE HANDLEBARS AT ALL TIMES**.
7. Bicyclists must observe all laws concerning right-of-way and must not weave between cars (parked or moving).

## Turning

Bicyclists **must signal** at any time when turning right or left or when changing lanes. Signals are to be given using the standard hand-and-arm signals. The signal shall be given for at least the last 100 feet before turning and shall be given while stopped waiting to turn. A signal by hand and arm does not need to be given continuously if the hand is needed to control or operate the bike. However, the bicyclist must let other drivers know what the bicyclist intends to do.



The illustration below shows the proper ways for bicyclists to make turns. Note, when turning left, a bike rider can either turn from the left lane or the left-turn lane, or can continue in the right lane across the intersection, stop, turn left, wait for the signal to turn green and then continue to travel with the normal flow of traffic.



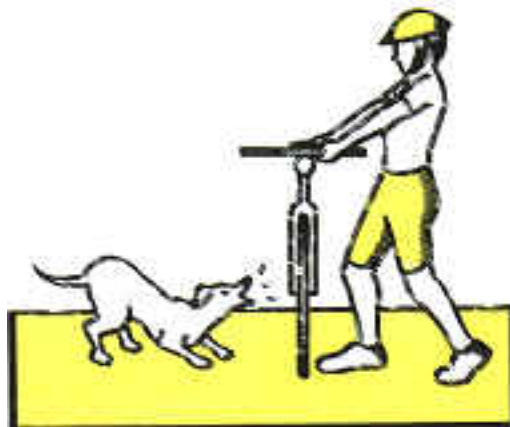
## Equipment

1. **Sirens** - A bicycle must not be equipped with any siren or whistle.
2. **Brakes** - Every bicycle will be equipped with a brake or brake system which enables the rider to stop the bike within 25 feet from a speed of 10 mph.
3. **Lights** - Every bicycle used upon the streets and highways between the period one-half hour **after** sunset and one-half hour **before** sunrise must be equipped with a **lamp on the front** which emits a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front.
  - Each bicycle operated on the streets and highways during the period one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise must also be equipped with a red reflector which is visible for 500 feet to the rear when directly in front of lower beams of headlights on a motor vehicle.
  - Every bicycle, when used during the above period, must also be equipped with reflective material of sufficient size and reflectivity to be visible from **both sides** for 500 feet when directly in front of lower beams of headlights on a motor vehicle.
4. **Helmets** - Every bicyclist should always wear an ANSI approved bicycle helmet when riding, which greatly improves the chances of surviving an accident.



## Tips for Bicyclists

1. **Obey traffic signs and signals** - Bicyclists must drive like other vehicles if they are to be taken seriously by motorists.
2. **Never ride against traffic** - Motorists do not look for or expect bicyclists riding on the wrong side of the roadway.
3. **Use hand signals** - Hand signals tell motorists what you intend to do. Signal as a matter of law, of courtesy and of self protection.
4. **Ride in a straight line** - Whenever possible, ride in a straight line and to the right of traffic but about the width of a car door away from parked cars.
5. **Follow lane markings** - Do not turn left from the right lane. Do not go straight in a lane marked for right turns only.
6. **Do not pass on the right** - Do not pass on the right side of vehicles in traffic at intersections. Motorists turning right may not look for or see a bicycle passing on the right.
7. **Watch for cars pulling out** - Even though you make eye contact with drivers, you must assume that they do not see you and may pull out in front of you.
8. **Scan the road behind you** - Learn to look back over your shoulder without losing your balance or swerving left. Some riders use rearview mirrors.
9. **Go slow on sidewalks** - Pedestrians have the right-of-way on sidewalks. The law requires that you give pedestrians an audible warning when you pass. Do not cross driveways or intersections without checking very carefully for traffic (especially traffic turning right on a green light).
10. **Keep both hands ready to brake** - You may not stop in time if you brake one-handed. Allow extra distance for stopping in the rain or on wet surfaces because brakes are less effective when wet.
11. **Watch for dogs** - If a dog starts to chase you, ignore it or, using a firm, loud voice, yell "NO". If the dog does not stop, dismount with your bike between you and the dog. Dogs are attracted by the spinning of your wheels and feet.



It is also important to know that there are steps that you should take as a pedestrian or bicyclist to stay alive. You can find out about these steps from the Utah Safety Council (telephone: 262-5400).

## **PEDESTRIANS AND JOGGERS**

Pedestrians should wear light-colored clothes and **walk facing traffic** when walking near a roadway. When crossing or walking on a roadway at places which are not intersections or marked crosswalks, you must yield the right-of-way to vehicles.

You must not suddenly leave a curb or other safe place and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is close enough to be a danger to you. This is true even though you are in a crosswalk and the law says that a driver must be concerned with the safety of pedestrians. If a driver cannot stop in time, the law will not help.

### **IF THERE ARE SIDEWALKS, YOU MUST USE THEM.**

If there are no sidewalks, walk or jog on the left shoulder as far away as possible from the edge of the roadway. Where neither a sidewalk nor shoulder is available, walk as near as possible to the outside edge of the roadway. Always walk or jog **FACING TRAFFIC**, that is, on the left side of the shoulder or road.

If you want to cross a street between intersections where a traffic light or officer controls traffic, you may cross only in marked crosswalks.

If traffic lights for vehicles are used with the pedestrian signals which show the words "WALK" or "DON'T WALK" (or the new upraised hand or walker signs), you must obey the pedestrian signals. If there are only signals for vehicles, you must obey them, but check carefully for vehicle traffic before you step into the intersection and during the entire time you are in the intersection.

When a signal changes to green or "WALK" for you, you must look left and right and yield the right-of-way to any vehicle which was in the intersection before the signal changed.

If the signal changes to "DON'T WALK" (or upraised hand) after you have gone part way across a divided street, proceed quickly to a sidewalk or safety island and wait there until the signal permits you to continue.

At an intersection where traffic is not controlled by signals, drivers are required to yield the right-of-way to you within any crosswalk, marked or unmarked; but you must give the driver a chance to yield to you.

Use the right-half of the crosswalk when possible, which allows a better flow of pedestrian traffic.

You may not pass through, around or under railroad crossing gates.

You **MUST** yield the right-of-way to emergency vehicles.

### **Drivers Must Remember**

1. Pedestrians have the right-of-way at intersections, whether or not the crosswalks are marked by painted white lines. You must yield when a pedestrian is on or near the half of the roadway you are traveling. The law requires that drivers do everything possible to keep from hitting pedestrians.
2. Stop for the safety of anyone crossing the street on foot. Do not pass from behind any vehicle that has stopped at a crosswalk. A pedestrian hidden from your view may be crossing the street.
3. When driving across a sidewalk from an alley or driveway, you must yield to pedestrians.
4. You must yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian using a guide dog or carrying a white cane. Only blind or nearly blind persons are permitted to carry white canes.

## **PEDESTRIAN VEHICLES**

A pedestrian vehicle is designed and manufactured for the use of the disabled. It must be less than 48 inches wide, have an engine displacement of less than 300 cubic centimeters and less than 12 brake horsepower, and not be capable of exceeding 30 mph.

These vehicles may be used on the highways and are exempt from registration, inspection and operator license requirements. Authority to operate pedestrian vehicles is governed by the Commissioner of Public Safety.

Although pedestrian vehicles are allowed on the highways, the drivers must still obey all the highway rules, regulations and laws. The vehicles must be operated in a safe and courteous manner.

## **SAFETY BELTS AND CAR SAFETY SEATS**

Motor vehicle accidents are the major cause of death and injury to individuals up to the age of 44, which creates a major health problem in Utah. The possibility of a serious accident on one of the many trips in your lifetime is greater than 50%. Ask your friends how many have never been in an accident - the percentage will be low.

### **Safety Belts**

1. **Buckle Up, It's The Law.** Safety belts are required for the driver, front seat passenger and all children under ten years of age.
2. Your chances of being killed are 25 times greater if you are thrown from a car. Safety belts will keep you in the car.
3. Four out of five accidents occur at speeds under 40 mph with deaths occurring at speeds as low as 12 mph. A safety belt should be worn at any speed, regardless of how slow you are moving.
4. In a crash, your body weight is multiplied by the speed of the car. For example, if you weigh 150 pounds and crash while traveling 30 mph, your body would hit with a force of 4,500 pounds. There is no way you can brace yourself against that much force.
5. Three out of four accidents resulting in death are within 25 miles of home. Not using a safety belt because you are just going to the store is a poor excuse - and dangerous.
6. Less than half of one percent of all injury producing collisions involve fire or submersion. If fire or submersion does occur, a safety belt may keep you from being injured or knocked unconscious, thus increasing your chances to escape.
7. Drivers wearing safety belts have more control over their vehicles in emergency situations and are, therefore, more likely to avoid an accident.
8. In Utah, approximately two out of three motor vehicle deaths would not happen if safety belts were worn.
9. Any person not complying with the safety belt law can be required to pay a fine.

### **Child Safety**

Approximately 700 Utah children under the age of five are injured and 7 to 10 are killed each year in motor vehicle accidents. One out of every 57 children born in Utah will be seriously injured or killed in a motor vehicle accident before age five, unless he or she is using a car safety seat or safety belt. These facts constitute a major public health concern for the State of Utah. Compliance with child passenger safety laws decreases the number of deaths and injuries to young children.





Infant Car Safety  
Seat



Infant/Toddler Seat



Booster Seat

In an effort to increase child safety in motor vehicles, laws have been enacted which require certain actions by all drivers in Utah. The laws provide that:

1. Children under age TWO must ride in an approved child restraint device, such as a car safety seat.
2. All children under age TEN must be protected by using an appropriate child restraint device or a safety belt while riding in a motor vehicle driven on a highway in this State. This does not apply if all seating positions are occupied by other passengers.
3. Authorized emergency vehicles, mopeds, campers, sleepers, motorcycles, motor homes, school buses and vehicles that provide transportation for hire are exempt from this law.
4. Drivers are subject to a fine of not more than \$75, which may be dismissed if the violator shows proof of acquiring a car safety seat or safety belt before any court appearance.
5. Car safety seats must be dynamically crash tested in order to be approved. Safety seats manufactured after January 1, 1981, according to the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS), are the safest seats available.

## Air Bags

Air bags work! They save lives. But they do their job best when everyone is buckled and children are properly restrained in the back seat. An air bag is not a soft, billowy pillow. To do its important job, an air bag comes out of the dash board at up to 200 mph - faster than the blink of an eye. The force of an air bag can hurt those who are too close to it. Drivers can entirely eliminate any danger to children from a deploying air bag by placing children properly restrained in the back seat. With or without an air bag, the back seat is the safest seat for children to ride. Air bag related injuries can be prevented by following these critical safety points:

- Children 12 and under should ride buckled up in a rear seat.
  - Infants should NEVER ride in the front seat of a vehicle with a passenger-side air bag.
  - Small children should ride in a rear seat in child safety seats approved for their age and size.
  - Everyone should buckle up with both lap AND shoulder belts on every trip.
  - Driver and front seat passengers should be moved as far back as practical, particularly for shorter stature people.
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## CHAPTER 6

# HOW ACCIDENTS MAY AFFECT YOU

**The Utah Motor Vehicle Financial Responsibility Law** requires that every resident owner of a motor vehicle, including motorcycles, shall maintain owner's or operator's security (proof of financial responsibility) in effect throughout the registration period of the vehicle. Anyone who operates a motor vehicle, or permits one to be operated, without owner's security is guilty of a class C misdemeanor and may have their driving privileges suspended or revoked. Motor vehicle insurance is the most convenient and least expensive way to comply with this law.

### MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE COVERAGE

The most important types of insurance "coverage" are:

1. **Bodily Injury and Property Damage Liability** - Mandatory coverage that provides payment for injuries or damages caused through your negligence to another person or another person's property. This coverage can be used to meet the requirements of the Utah Motor Vehicle Financial Responsibility Law.
2. **Uninsured Motorist** - Covers injuries to you and your passengers if you are in an accident that is caused by another driver who does not have insurance, or by a "hit-and-run" driver. Property damage losses are not normally paid under this coverage.
3. **Personal Injury Protection (also known as "No-fault" or PIP)** - Mandatory and provides some basic benefits and coverage for bodily injury to you and others without having to determine "fault" in an accident.
4. **Collision** - Covers repairs to your vehicle for damage caused by a collision, subject to a deductible, usually in a case when no other person is at fault. This coverage is not required by law, but is usually required by a lien holder.
5. **Comprehensive** - Covers repairs to your vehicle for damage caused by some reason other than collision, such as fire, theft, vandalism or glass breakage. This coverage is not required by law, but may be required by a lien holder.

### IF YOU ARE INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT

#### Stop immediately

You may be penalized severely for not remaining at the scene of an accident in which you are involved. Your driver license could be suspended or revoked for up to one year. In addition, you can receive a jail sentence of up to one year, a fine of up to \$2,500 or both.

#### Render Aid

If possible, find someone trained in first aid. Until medical help arrives, you should avoid moving anyone who appears to be seriously injured unless such action is necessary to avoid further injury.

#### Contact the Police

If the accident results in injuries, death or at least \$1000 total property damage, you must notify the police, sheriff or Highway Patrol as soon as possible. This rule applies to all types of accidents,

regardless of whether another driver was involved. You may also be requested to provide insurance information to the Financial Responsibility Section, Driver License Division.

### **Exchange Information**

The following information must be exchanged between drivers or other persons involved in the accident:

- Your name and address
- Vehicle registration number
- Your driver license number

If the owner of an unattended vehicle is not available or cannot be found, leave a note providing this information:

- Name and address of the driver of your vehicle
- Vehicle registration number of the vehicle that caused the accident

### **THE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT**

The Financial Responsibility Act is designed to protect the public from losses due to motor vehicle accidents. This law requires that you have your vehicle or yourself, as a driver, insured. Failure to obey this law could result in the loss of your driver license, motor vehicle registration and license plates. To regain these items, you must provide proof of adequate financial security, pay required reinstatement fees, and fines up to \$1000.00.

### **Providing Security After an Accident**

There are two ways you can provide the required security after an accident in which you were the at-fault driver; namely:

1. Depositing money with the Financial Responsibility Section in the amount of the loss suffered by the other parties involved.
2. Showing that at the time of the accident you were covered by automobile liability insurance. If you were not covered by such insurance, you must file one of the following:
  - Evidence that you have been released from liability by all parties involved in the accident.
  - Evidence that you have agreed in writing to make payments for any damages or injuries suffered by the other party or parties.
  - Evidence that you have been found not liable by a court of law.
  - Evidence that the operator was in compliance with the operator's security requirement.

If your driving privilege is suspended under this act, it may be reinstated by complying with one of the above listed procedures or one year following the effective date of suspension, if no civil action arising out of the accident has been instituted.

### **Unsatisfied Judgments**

A court may render a judgment against you for damages to other injured parties. If this judgment is not satisfied within 60 days after the court decision, your driving privilege will be taken away. This rule may apply not only to drivers, but also to those who own or maintain the vehicle. If your license is taken away, the revocation will be in effect until the judgment is satisfied and you have filed "future proof" of financial responsibility in the form of an SR-22.

"Future proof" is evidence that you will be able to pay for any damage to others if you are responsible for a future accident. It is required if you have failed to satisfy a judgment as explained above or if your driving privilege is suspended or revoked for a violation of the motor vehicle laws. This proof must be maintained for **THREE YEARS** following the date of the suspension or revocation or, in the case of an unsatisfied judgment, three years from the date of reinstatement.

The usual way to file "future proof" is to furnish evidence that you are covered by an SR-22 automobile liability insurance policy.

You may obtain additional information on financial responsibility by contacting the Financial Responsibility Section, Driver License Division. The telephone number is (801) 965-4393.

**NOTE:**

The law states that **ANYTIME** anyone operates a motor vehicle, proof of insurance for the vehicle and/or the operator **MUST BE IN THE VEHICLE** and must be shown to any peace officer who asks to see it.

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## CHAPTER 7

# SPECIAL SUBJECTS AND INTERESTS FOR DRIVERS

### PHYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEMS AND DRIVING SAFETY

In 1979, The Utah State Legislature made provisions for increasing highway safety and at the same time allowing many people with medical problems to drive within appropriate safety limits.

The law states that individuals are personally responsible to be sure they are in reasonably good health when they drive. If a condition persists, they are responsible to report it to the Driver License Division and are expected to seek competent medical evaluation and advice. Their physicians are responsible to advise them about their health as it relates to driving safety. A physician does not have authority to restrict anyone's driving, but is responsible to report accurately about a patient's health status. This report may permit an unlimited license, one with restrictions or, in some cases, a denial of a license for safety reasons.

The Legislature also set up a Driver License Medical Advisory Board to advise physicians and the Driver License Division. The Board emphasizes functional ability to operate a vehicle safely, rather than stressing impairments. It has developed a form, "Functional Ability in Driving: Guidelines for Health Care Professionals," to help physicians advise their patients and simplify reporting.

The "Guidelines" include possible medical problems in the following twelve categories:

1. A - Diabetes Mellitus and Other Metabolic Conditions
2. B - Cardiovascular (Heart)
3. C - Pulmonary (Lung)
4. D - Neurologic (Nervous System)
5. E - Epilepsy and Other Episodic Conditions
6. F - Learning, Memory and Communication
7. G - Psychiatric or Emotional Conditions
8. H - Alcohol and Other Drugs
9. I - Visual Acuity (Eyes)
10. J - Musculoskeletal Abnormality or Chronic Medical Debility
11. K - Functional Motor Ability
12. L - Hearing

The "Guidelines" are designed to be the least restrictive possible while at the same time maintaining safety on our highways.

Applicants for a driver license will be asked to answer health related questions. If there is a problem, they will be given a Functional Ability Evaluation form, a vision statement, or both, to take to their health care provider, who will complete a Functional Ability Profile. The form is then returned to the Driver

License Division and, if appropriate, a license to drive will be issued based upon previously determined levels of driving risk. For example, if there is a vision problem and the person cannot read highway signs at a distance, the individual may be considered safe to drive, but at reduced speeds, and a restricted license could then be issued.

If you have a health problem, you should ask your physician about how it might affect your driving. Many medications may cause drowsiness or other difficulties; therefore, a physician may advise against driving until a suitable dosage schedule has been worked out that will not impair driving. Abuse or excessive use of prescription drugs has caused many serious accidents and should be avoided. Individual drivers have the final responsibility for knowing their abilities and for driving safely.

The "Guidelines" require higher standards of fitness for drivers of commercial motor vehicles than for private vehicles, but the principles are the same.

## **MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL CONDITIONS**

Mental and emotional conditions are just as important as physical problems. If your mind is not on your driving, you are probably not driving safely.

Consider the following four points:

1. Some forms of behavior which often provide hints about our emotional and mental health are:
  - a. Finding that you are always mad at other drivers and sometimes try to "get even".
  - b. Having a tendency to be excessively confused or frustrated when traffic becomes heavy.
  - c. Being so depressed and worried about things that your attention is not always on the road.
  - d. Finding that you are frequently getting traffic tickets.
  - e. Having trouble adjusting to an emotional shock such as the loss of a loved one.
2. If you are angry or excited, give yourself time to cool off. Take a walk or talk to a friend. Do anything, but stay off the road until you have cooled down.
3. If you are worried about something, do something that will allow you to concentrate on your driving. Listen to the radio or sing to yourself.
4. If you are impatient, give yourself extra time. If you leave a few minutes early, you will not feel the need to speed, beat traffic signals or do other things that can get you a traffic ticket or cause an accident.

Remember, it is your responsibility to find out about and report mental or emotional problems, just as you must for physical problems.

The Driver License Division staff will be happy to provide information about the medical guidelines as they apply to the licensing program. In some circumstances, it might be appropriate for the Medical Advisory Board to review a case.

## **DRIVING AND USING ALCOHOL OR DRUGS**

Driving after even one drink is asking for trouble. The bottom line is that when you drive after drinking, you are driving with an impairment. After alcohol reaches your stomach, it enters your blood and goes to all parts of your body and reaches your brain in 20 to 40 minutes. Alcohol affects those parts of your brain that control your judgment and motor skills. The more you drink, the more trouble you will have judging distances, speeds and the movements of other vehicles. You will also have much more difficulty

controlling your own car.

Remember, one of the most dangerous things about alcohol is that your judgment is the first thing to be impaired. It is a fact that over half of all drivers have driven after they have been drinking. Whether you drink all the time or never drink, you should know that somewhere down the road you will meet a driver who has been drinking.

In recent years, drugs have become a problem with many drivers on the roads. The "drug addict" is not the only person causing a problem. Most of the drugs for headaches, colds, hay fever, allergies or nerves can make you sleepy and affect your control of the vehicle. Be sure you know how any drugs or medication you take may affect your driving and ability to operate a vehicle safely on our highways.

Here are a few facts about drinking and the use of drugs that you should know:

1. If your blood or breath alcohol concentration level is .08 grams, the point of intoxication in Utah, you are six times more likely to have an accident than if you are sober.
2. Almost half of the wrecks in which people are killed nationally involve drinking. There are more than 25,000 of those collisions each year.
3. The average person is likely to be legally intoxicated after consuming three mixed drinks, three glasses of wine or three cans of beer in one hour, and will stay drunk by having only one additional drink every hour.
4. Drugs and alcohol should not be taken at the same time. Alcohol can have an unpredictable effect on drugs, which, in turn, will react much differently in your body.
5. If an officer requests you to take a test to see if you have been drinking or are under the influence of drugs (including prescription medication) and you refuse to be tested, **your license may be revoked for one year**. This is called the **Utah Implied Consent Law**.
6. Studies show that people who use marijuana:
  - Make more driving mistakes
  - Are arrested for more traffic violations
  - Are more likely to be bothered by headlight glare

If you have been drinking any alcoholic beverages, don't take a chance. Let someone who has not been drinking alcoholic beverages do the driving.

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## CHAPTER 8

# LICENSE REVOCATION & SUSPENSION ALCOHOL, POINT SYSTEM, DRIVING RECORDS

Some drivers do not meet acceptable driving standards. The Driver Services Bureau, Driver License Division, is here to help those drivers, if possible, and to take corrective action, if necessary. They also deal with cases of license fraud and alteration.

The various driver control programs are designed to result in improved driver attitude and performance. In most cases, the treatment programs are successful. However, some drivers are unable or unwilling to correct their bad habits. Those drivers can expect revocation, suspension, denial or disqualification of their driving privileges.

### **WHEN YOUR PRIVILEGE TO DRIVE MUST BE REVOKED**

Your driver license will be revoked if a court finds you guilty of any of the following:

1. Manslaughter or negligent homicide while driving.
2. A second or subsequent conviction for driving or being in actual physical control of a motor vehicle while intoxicated or while any measurable controlled substance or metabolite of a controlled substance is in your body (including prescribed medications).
3. Making a false statement under oath when applying for a driver license.
4. Committing a felony in which a motor vehicle is used, including automobile homicide.
5. Failure to stop and give aid if you are involved in a motor vehicle accident resulting in the death of, or personal injury to another.
6. Two charges of reckless driving in one year. (The court may recommend that your license be suspended for three months on the first conviction.) Reckless driving is defined as operating a vehicle in a willful and/or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property.
7. Refusing to stop after receiving a visual or audible signal from a police officer.
8. Failure to show proof of no-fault insurance or other security as required under the Utah Automobile No-fault Insurance Act.
9. Operating a vehicle or allowing a vehicle registered to you to be operated without required insurance or proof of financial responsibility.
10. Discharging or allowing the discharge of a firearm from a vehicle.
11. Using, allowing the use of, or causing to be used any explosive, chemical or incendiary device from a vehicle.

If you forfeit bail after being arrested for one of the offenses mentioned above, your driver license will be revoked/suspended as if you had appeared in court and been found guilty.

### **WHEN YOUR PRIVILEGE TO DRIVE MAY BE SUSPENDED**

Your driver license may be suspended for as long as one year. Some reasons the Division may suspend your driving privilege are:

1. You have been convicted of an offense for which mandatory suspension is required.
2. By reckless or unlawful conduct, you have caused or contributed to an accident in which someone was injured or killed or which resulted in serious property damage.
3. You are incompetent to drive, or have a mental or physical condition that would make you an unsafe driver.
4. You have unlawfully or fraudulently used your license or permitted its use by someone else.
5. You have refused to take or failed to pass a review examination as ordered by the Division.
6. You have been convicted of sufficient traffic violations to be subject to the Division Point System.
7. You have been arrested for DUI or been found guilty of any drug offense.
8. You operated or permitted to be operated a motor vehicle owned by you without the required security.
9. As a Utah driver, you failed to appear in court for a traffic violation when it occurred in Utah or in a Non resident Violator Compact member state; or that you failed to satisfy fees, fines or restitution to the court on any criminal charge.

## **THE DRINKING AND DRUG USE DRIVER**

Too many people are killed in alcohol related accidents each year in Utah, and many more are seriously or permanently injured. To help keep the drinking driver off the road, various laws have been enacted. These laws provide severe penalties for the intoxicated driver. A driver is considered to be intoxicated if his/her blood or breath alcohol concentration is .08 or higher (the level is .04 for commercial motor vehicle operators - refer to the CDL manual for details regarding disqualifications). If you are convicted of, plead guilty to, or forfeit bail for, driving or being in actual physical control of a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, your punishment may be as much as 6 months in jail and a fine.

Your license will be suspended for 90 days on the first conviction. Second and subsequent convictions will result in a one-year revocation. A mandatory jail sentence or requirement to perform community service will be ordered upon conviction of driving under the influence. You must also participate in an assessment and educational series at a State approved alcohol or drug dependency rehabilitation facility before you will again be allowed driving privileges.

In addition to the criminal penalties, Utah's Drunk Driving Law also allows a peace officer to confiscate your Utah driver license upon arrest for driving under the influence and allows the Division to suspend your license for 90 days or 1 year on the 30th day after the arrest.

You may receive similar fines and jail sentences for any additional convictions for drunk driving or driving under the influence of drugs. A repeat offender may also be found to be a habitual user of alcohol or drugs and be refused a driver license indefinitely or for life.

**THE "NOT A DROP" ACT PROVIDES THAT A PERSON UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE DRIVING WITH ANY MEASURABLE AMOUNT OF ALCOHOL IN HIS/HER BODY WILL HAVE ALL DRIVING PRIVILEGES DENIED FOR 90 DAYS FOR A FIRST OFFENSE. A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE WITHIN THREE YEARS OF A PRIOR DENIAL WILL RESULT IN LOSS OF DRIVING PRIVILEGES FOR ONE YEAR. AN INDIVIDUAL WHO DOES NOT HAVE A LICENSE AND IS CONVICTED UNDER THIS ACT WILL BE DENIED DRIVING PRIVILEGES FOR ONE YEAR OR UNTIL AGE 17, WHICHEVER IS**

## **LONGER.**

After the suspension or revocation time is up, the court can require that you have an "interlock" device installed on your vehicle. This would require you to breathe into the device before you would be able to start the vehicle. The entire time period for that requirement would have to be completed before you could be issued a license without that restriction.

Following a first conviction or action after reinstatement, a driver's license will be considered "conditional" for two years. Additional convictions will result in a six year conditional status. The conditional privilege allows full driving privileges. However, if the driver is convicted of driving "...with any alcohol in the person's body..." during the conditional period, his/her driver license will be revoked for one year.

### **Utah Implied Consent Law**

When you operate a vehicle in the State of Utah, it is implied that you will submit to chemical tests of your breath, blood or urine to determine alcohol or drug content, if asked to do so by a peace officer. This is called the IMPLIED CONSENT LAW.

Utah accepts the results of chemical tests to help determine whether an individual has been driving or in actual physical control of a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, drugs or both. If an officer arrests you for driving while in such a condition, you must submit to the chemical tests selected or designated by the officer. If you refuse to do so, your license may be revoked. If asked to take any chemical tests, you may not:

- Choose which tests you will take.
- Consult with an attorney or doctor before agreeing to take such tests.

Any time your license is suspended/revoked for an alcohol related offense, you may apply for a new license after the revocation/suspension period by paying a \$50.00 reinstatement fee and the regular license fee, by taking the required examinations, and furnishing proof of completion of an approved alcohol or drug rehabilitation program. An additional \$150.00 administrative fee may be required in some cases.

### **DRIVING WHILE DENIED, SUSPENDED OR REVOKED**

If you drive while your license is denied, suspended or revoked, you may be sentenced to jail for 90 days and be required to pay a fine of up to \$750. Also, the length of time your license was originally revoked, suspended or denied, will be increased by the amount of the original time period. For example, if your license was originally suspended for three months, an additional three months would be added to your suspension.

If your original suspension or revocation is based upon an alcohol related offense, the fine may be up to \$1,000 and you may be imprisoned for up to six months.

If you are driving in another state and violate the law, your driving privilege may be affected not only in that state, but in Utah as well. Similarly, non residents who are convicted of driving violations in Utah may lose their driving privilege in their home state as well as in Utah.

### **ALTERED OR FICTITIOUS LICENSE**

It is unlawful to display or have in your possession any license which you know has been canceled,

suspended or altered. It is also illegal to alter a driver license. Either of these actions could result in your license being suspended.

You must surrender your driver license to the Division if it has been suspended, denied, revoked or canceled. If you fail to do so, a "pick up" order may be issued and you may be required to pay an additional \$25 administrative fee before you may be re-licensed.

**UTAH'S POINT SYSTEM**

**Over 21 Years of Age**

The point system is a part of Utah's Driver Improvement Program. Points are assigned for specific types of violations. If you acquire 200 or more points within a three-year period, you will be asked to appear for a hearing. Based on that hearing, you may be placed on probation, requested to take the Defensive Driving Course or have your driving privilege suspended. The suspension may be for three months, six months or one year, depending on your record.

**Under 21 Years of Age**

Utah drivers under the age of 21 are subject to a stiffer point system. An accumulation of 70 points or more within a three-year period may result in a hearing and a subsequent suspension or denial of driving privileges from 30 days up to one year.

| POINT DISTRIBUTION                 |          |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Reckless Driving                   | 80       |
| Speeding (Depending on Severity)   | 35 to 75 |
| Failure to Yield Right-of-Way      | 60       |
| Following too Closely (Tailgating) | 60       |
| Wrong Side of Road                 | 60       |
| Wrong Way on One-way Street        | 60       |
| Red Light                          | 50       |
| Stop Sign                          | 50       |
| Improper Lookout                   | 50       |
| Improper Passing                   | 50       |
| Negligent Collision                | 50       |
| Other Moving Violations            | 40       |

**NOTE:** Except for speeding tickets, points may vary plus or minus 10%, depending upon the recommendation of the court.

**RECORDS**

**How to Clear Your Record**

By driving safely, you can clear your own record. The point system provides that when you drive one full year without being convicted of a moving traffic violation, half of the total points on your record will be removed. If you drive two successive years without a conviction, all points will be removed from your record. Points for individual convictions are automatically removed from your record three years after the date of the violation. As a further incentive, 50 points may be removed from your record upon

completion of a defensive driving course recommended by the Division. This 50 point reduction will be permitted only once during any three-year period.

**Driver's Record** The Driver License Division maintains a computerized driving and accident record of every driver in the State. It contains a record of convictions for moving traffic violations and suspensions within the past three years. All alcohol/drug related violations, suspensions and revocations remain on the record for six years. When a driver is convicted of a moving traffic violation, notice of the court action is sent to the Division for posting on the driver's record. Your driving record will be submitted to the National Problem Driver Pointer System and a record of suspensions and revocations will be available to any state upon inquiry.

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## CHAPTER 9

# REGISTRATION, INSPECTION AND EQUIPMENT

### REGISTRATION

All of the below listed types of vehicles must be registered by Utah residents for use in the State:

- Cars
- Boats
- Trucks
- Off-highway vehicles
- Trailers
- Snowmobiles
- Campers
- Aircraft
- Motorcycles

Non residents using their boats, off-highway vehicles and snowmobiles in Utah for more than 14 days per year must also register those vehicles in Utah.

Trailers weighing less than 750 pounds when empty do not have to be registered. However, any trailer may be registered for the resident's convenience.

Non resident students who pay non resident tuition and certain military personnel may be exempt from registering vehicles.

When registering a vehicle in Utah, the following listed items must be taken to the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV):

1. **Most recent registration** - Regardless in which state your vehicle was last registered, you must take the most recent registration to the DMV.

2. **Title** - If your vehicle title is held by an out-of-state lien holder or leasing company, your vehicle will be registered in Utah, but it will not be titled. Be sure to present your current registration.

If your vehicle is leased, you must present the power of attorney form provided by your leasing company, which authorizes you to register the vehicle on behalf of the leasing company.

The signature of everyone whose name is to be on the new Utah title must appear on the application for registration and title.

All motorized boats, sailboats or jet skis used on Utah waters must be registered, but are titled only if they were manufactured after 1984. In all cases, you must present your current registration and title.

All off-road vehicles and snowmobiles used on public lands must be registered, but are titled only if manufactured after 1987. In all cases, your current registration and title must be provided when



you register your vehicle.

Campers and aircraft are registered through your local county assessors office, but are not titled. Your most recent registration and any other available ownership documents must be presented at the time of registration.

**3. Utah Safety Inspection Certificate** - Cars, trucks and on-highway motorcycles are required to be inspected prior to registration. Inspections are available at most service stations and are valid for two months.

You must present your current registration and proof of insurance at the time of inspection. If repair work is required in order to pass inspection, it may be done by anyone. Required repairs must be completed within 15 days, after which the inspection station is required to recheck the vehicle at no additional cost. Currently, safety inspection fees are limited to \$10.00.

**4. Utah Emission Certificates** - All cars and trucks powered by gasoline, propane or natural gas and manufactured in 1968 or later, must have an emissions test which can be completed at most service stations. Emission certificates are primarily required in Davis, Salt Lake, Utah and Weber counties, and are valid for two months. Emission testing for **diesel vehicles** is required in Davis, Salt Lake, and Utah counties.

**5. Serial number (VIN) inspections** - An inspection is required of the identification number of every vehicle or vessel to be titled in Utah. If the VIN is accurate on the safety inspection certificate for your car, truck or motorcycle, you can use that certificate as a means of verification of the number. Trailers, boats, off-highway vehicles and snowmobiles require separate VIN or HIN inspections, which can be completed by a Utah peace officer or DMV employee. Those inspections will be completed at any DMV office at no extra charge.

**6. Property Tax clearance** - All vehicles in Utah are considered personal property. Personal property tax is 1.7 percent of the fair market value of your vehicle, as determined by your county assessor. A property tax clearance must be obtained prior to registering your vehicle.

**7. Application for registration/title** - In addition to all other requirements, if you are registering or titling a vehicle in Utah for the first time, you must also complete a TC-656A application form and submit it to the DMV office at the time of registration. If your vehicle is less than ten years old, an odometer statement will also be required to complete your application.

### **Registration, Plates and/or Decals**

License plates and/or decals will be issued to you upon completion of the registration process. All license plates belong to the owner of the vehicle and should be removed if the vehicle is sold.

The registration issued to you will expire on the last day of the month one year from the date of issue. Utah's registration by mail program mails a computer generated registration packet to the address shown on our records. If you move, it is very important that you submit an address correction in writing to the DMV. This will enable them to send your mail packet to the correct address.

## **Registration Renewal**

You will receive a registration renewal packet in the mail containing all of the information necessary to reregister your vehicle. Upon receiving the packet, you must obtain a safety inspection certificate. If you live in Davis, Salt Lake, Utah or Weber counties, you will also be required to submit an emission certificate with the registration material. Please allow ten days for processing.

If you are renewing your registration in person, follow the same instructions for mail renewal. You may obtain a renewal registration form in any DMV branch office or county assessor's office. For more information, call 1-800-DMV-UTAH.

## **SAFETY INSPECTION AND EQUIPMENT**

It is illegal to drive any vehicle which is in an unsafe condition or which does not have the equipment required by law. In addition, the owner of such a vehicle shall not knowingly allow it to be driven. You have the responsibility to maintain your vehicle in a safe operating condition. You must also verify the safety of your vehicle each year by submitting the vehicle to an approved inspection. The main purpose of the safety inspection program is to minimize or eliminate vehicle defects and prevent unsafe vehicles from operating on Utah roads and highways. The need for an annual inspection also increases your awareness of the steps which result in a quality inspection.

### **Inspection Checklist**

The following information is intended to help you determine whether or not your vehicle has been properly inspected. Keep this checklist in the glove compartment of your vehicle and refer to it each time you have the vehicle inspected.

#### **Brakes**

1. Visual Inspection - Remove at least one front wheel and one rear wheel. Measure the brake linings or pads to be sure they are over 1/32" thick at the thinnest point. There should be no missing or loose rivets. Rotors and drums must not be turned beyond the specifications established by the manufacturer. Check wheel cylinders, brake lines and hoses. There should be no leakage. Parking brakes must function properly.
2. Computerized Plate Brake Inspection - Vehicles using the computerized brake inspection procedure do not have wheels pulled to measure lining thickness. The computerized test measures the braking efficiency of each wheel to determine compliance with the manufacturer's specifications for the original equipment. This in no way releases the vehicle owner from periodic brake checks for brake pad lining thickness.

#### **Tires**

Inspect all tires tire wear. Measure tread depth to be sure they are at least 1/16". Inspect the tires for cuts and cracks that expose the tire cord.

#### **Exhaust system**

Check the exhaust system for leakage in any part of the system, including the mufflers, tailpipes and all connections. Tailpipes must extend beyond the side or rear of the vehicle body.

#### **Steering**

The steering system must be checked for excessive play. Too much play could indicate problems with tie rods, tie rod ends, idler arms or other steering components. Ball joints must not have movement in them that exceeds the manufacturer's specifications.

## **Headlights**

Headlights must operate properly, including the high and low beams. They must be properly and securely mounted and be aimed to specifications.

## **Tail Lights, Stop Lights and Turn Signal Lights**

All lamps must operate properly and lenses must not be broken. Turn signals must operate properly; however, they do not have to self-cancel.

## **Windshield**

Some things that will not allow your windshield to pass a safety inspection are:

- Three or more "stars" and/or "bulls eyes" larger than two inches in diameter.
- Any crack or cracks that have a cumulative total of 24 inches or more.
- Any damage in the "acute area". The acute area is an area immediately in front of the driver that is four inches down from the top of the windshield, four inches up from the bottom of the windshield and six inches to the left and right of an imaginary line from the center of the steering column to the windshield in front of the driver.

## **Windshield Wipers**

The wipers must operate properly and be capable of clearing the windshield adequately.

## **Fuel System**

The fuel system must be securely fastened to the vehicle and there must be no leakage in the system.

## **EQUIPMENT YOUR VEHICLE MUST HAVE**

### **Brakes**

Every motor vehicle, except motorcycles, must have two separate means of applying the brakes; namely, the foot brake and the hand brake.

### **Headlights**

Your car must have at least two white headlights. One headlight is required on a motorcycle.

### **Tail Lights**

All motor vehicles manufactured after January 1, 1956, must be equipped with at least two tail lights.

The only exceptions are:

- Truck Tractors
- Motorcycles
- Motor driven cycles (such as mopeds)

### **License Plate Light**

Your vehicle must have a white light that will illuminate the license plate so it can be read from 50 feet away at night.

### **Rearview Mirror**

You must have a rearview mirror with which you can see at least 200 feet to the rear.

## **Windshield**

A windshield is required on all vehicles driven on Utah highways except motorcycles and farm equipment.

### **Windshield Wipers**

If two windshield wipers were part of the original equipment on the vehicle, you must have two windshield wipers which work.

### **Horn**

A horn is required which can be heard from 200 feet away.

### **Muffler**

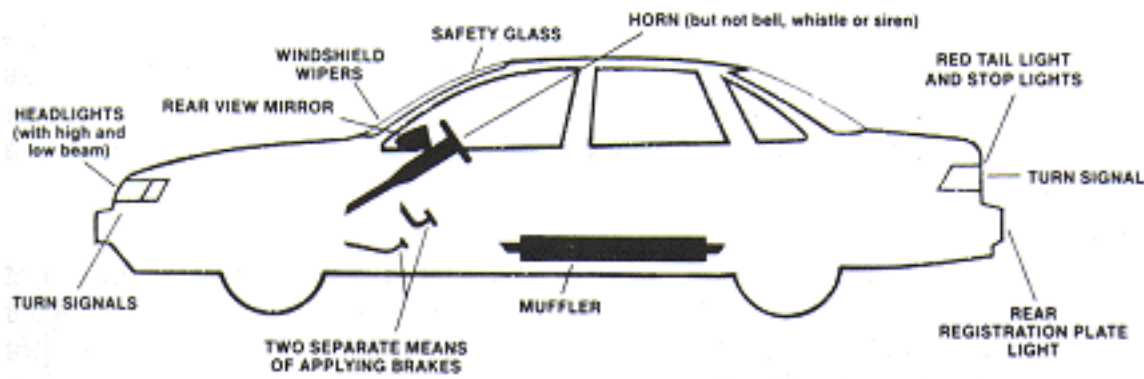
A muffler must be on the exhaust system to prevent excessive noise.

### **Safety Glass**

Safety glass is required equipment for all car windows and windshields.

All equipment must meet the legal standards for the particular device. If the equipment on your vehicle is in such a condition as to be a menace to your safety and the safety of others, or if the equipment on your vehicle is in violation of the law, the registration of your vehicle may be suspended.

**NOTE:** All registered vehicles must have proof of insurance **IN THE VEHICLE AT ALL TIMES.**



## **YOUR CAR MUST HAVE THIS EQUIPMENT**

### **EQUIPMENT YOUR VEHICLE MUST NOT HAVE**

The following items and equipment are not allowed to be mounted on your vehicle:

1. Any red or blue light showing toward the front.
2. Any siren, bell or whistle.
3. A muffler cutout.
4. More than two fog lights.
5. More than two extra driving lights .
6. More than two fender lights.
7. Aftermarket sun screening devices are not approved for use in Utah. Window tint materials must comply with Utah law. The front windows to the immediate left and right of the driver must allow 43% light transmittance and all windows behind these must allow 28% light transmittance.

Vehicles with window tint on the rear window of the vehicle must be equipped with an outside mirror on each side of the vehicle. Vehicles that come from the factory with a high-mounted stop light in the rear window are prohibited from covering the stop light with window tint.

In addition, no vehicle may be mechanically altered or changed to cause the lowest part of the body or chassis to be closer to the ground than one inch above the lowest portion of the rim of any wheel in contact with the road surface.

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## CHAPTER 10

# INFORMATION FOR RV'S AND LARGE VEHICLES

### SHARING THE ROAD WITH TRUCKS AND LARGE VEHICLES

It may sound obvious, but trucks are not large cars. To reduce the chance of an accident with a large tractor-trailer, the so-called "18-wheeler", motorists must be familiar with a truck's physical capabilities and common maneuvers. According to the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 71 percent of fatal accidents involving two or more vehicles-in which one is a truck-are caused by the other vehicle, usually a car.

#### Braking

Tractor-trailers take longer to stop than a car traveling at the same speed. The average passenger car traveling at 55 mph can stop in about 130-140 feet, less than half the length of a football field. A fully-loaded tractor-trailer may take more than 400 feet to come to a complete stop, or one-third more than the length of a football field.

#### Turning

With any turning vehicle, the rear wheels follow a shorter path than the front wheels. The longer the vehicle, the greater the difference. That's why the drivers of tractor-trailers must often swing out to the left as the first step in making a right turn. When following a tractor-trailer, observe its turn signals before trying to pass. If it appears to be starting a left turn, wait a moment to check and see which way the driver is signaling he's going to turn before passing on the right.

#### A Trucker's Blind Spots

It is important to be seen whenever you are driving. Many motorists falsely assume that truckers can see the road better because they sit twice as high as the driver of a car. While truckers do enjoy a better forward view and have bigger mirrors, they still have **SERIOUS BLIND SPOTS** into which a car can disappear from view - **UP TO 20 FEET IN FRONT OF THE CAB, ON EITHER SIDE OF THE TRACTOR TRAILER, PARTICULARLY ALONGSIDE THE CAB, AND UP TO 200 FEET IN THE REAR.**

Motorists lingering in blind spots on the sides or at the rear of large trucks hamper the truckers' ability to take evasive action to avoid dangerous situations -thus increasing the possibility of accidents. An excellent rule of thumb for motorists sharing the road with a tractor-trailer is, **"if you can't see the truck driver in his side mirror, he can't see you."**

#### Maneuverability

Trucks are designed to carry products to and from towns and cities; they are not designed to be as maneuverable as cars. Trucks have longer stopping and accelerating distances, wider turning area, and weigh more. On multi-lane highways tractor-trailers stay in the center lane to help the flow of local traffic on and off the highway. Staying in the middle lane also increases a truck driver's options if he or she has to switch lanes in order to avoid a dangerous situation or an accident.

Listed below are common mistakes motorists must avoid when driving around trucks:

- **Cutting off a truck in traffic or on the highway to reach your exit or turn.** Cutting into the



open space in front of a truck removes the truck driver's cushion of safety. Trying to beat a truck to a single-lane construction zone represents a particularly dangerous situation. Take a moment to slow down and exit behind a truck - it takes only a few extra seconds and can avoid causing an accident.

- **Don't linger alongside a truck when passing.** Always pass a tractor-trailer completely and always on the left side. If you linger when passing, your position makes it impossible for the trucker to take evasive action if an obstacle appears in the road ahead.
- **Following too close or tailgating.** When following behind a truck, if you can't see the truck driver's rearview mirrors, there is no way the truck driver can see you. Tailgating a truck or car is dangerous because you take away your own cushion of safety if the vehicle in front of you stops short - and if the vehicle you are following hits something in the road, you will have no time to react before it hits your car.
- **Never underestimate the size and speed of an approaching tractor-trailer.** Because of its large size, a tractor-trailer often appears to be traveling at a slower speed than it is. A substantial number of car-truck collisions take place at intersections because the driver of the car does not realize how close the truck is or how quickly it is approaching.

## **SIZE AND WEIGHT REGULATIONS**

It is illegal to move any vehicle which exceeds the legal size and weight limits on any highway, except with a special permit. This chapter describes some of those limits. Please refer to the CDL manual for more specific details and information. Remember, no local authority has the power to alter these limitations.

### **Width**

No vehicle shall have a total outside width, including load, of more than 8 1/2 feet. One exception to this rule is farm tractors. Their width may not exceed 9 feet. In addition, farm machinery may move short distances upon the highway, regardless of their size, if they are actually engaged in farm operations.

### **Height**

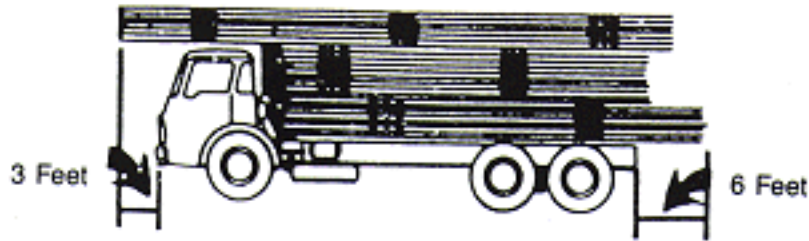
No vehicle shall exceed a height of 14 feet, including any load that may be carried.

### **Length**

No single vehicle, except for fire-fighting equipment, shall exceed an overall length of 45 feet, including the front and rear bumpers. A truck tractor coupled to a semi-trailer or trailers is considered to be two vehicles.

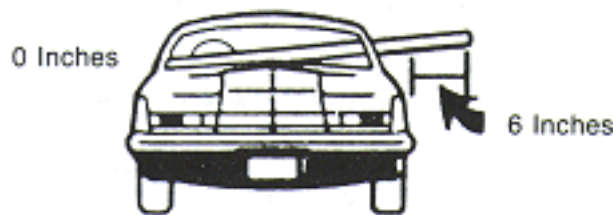
### **Loads Projecting to the Front and Rear**

No train of vehicles or single vehicle shall carry a load extending more than three feet to the front, nor more than six feet to the rear of the body of the vehicle. Requirements for placement of flags, if required, are listed later in this chapter.



### **Loads Projecting to the Sides**

No vehicle, including a passenger vehicle, may carry any load extending beyond the line of the fenders on the left side of the vehicle nor extending more than six inches beyond the line of the fenders on the right side of the vehicle. Requirements for lighting and flagging loads that project beyond the sides or ends of a vehicle are discussed later in this chapter.



### **Posting of Registered Gross Laden Weight**

The Utah State Tax Commission requires that every vehicle registered for 16,001 pounds or more have the weight for which it is registered displayed upon both the left and right sides of the vehicle. This can be done with paint, stencil or decals. The information must be in letters not less than two inches high and placed in a location that is easily seen.

### **EQUIPMENT**

The following list will serve as a handy guide to Utah's equipment regulations. (An "\*" indicates equipment required for ALL motor vehicles.)

#### **\* Headlights**

All vehicles, except motorcycles, must have at least two operational headlights (one on each side) which are white in color and can shine 350 feet on high beam and 100 feet on low beam. All vehicles must have a high beam indicator light.

#### **\* Tail & Stop Lights**

Vehicles must have two red tail/stop lights mounted on the rear of the vehicle. The lights must be visible from 500 feet to the rear in normal sunlight. One tail/ stop light is permissible on motorcycles and certain vehicles manufactured prior to 1956.

#### **\* Turn Signals**

Two red, yellow or amber lights must be mounted on the rear of the vehicle and two white, yellow or amber lights must be mounted on the front of each vehicle. These lights must be visible from 100 feet in normal sunlight. Turn signals are not required on vehicles manufactured before 1953, if the vehicle is

less than 80 inches wide.

### \* **Parking Lights**

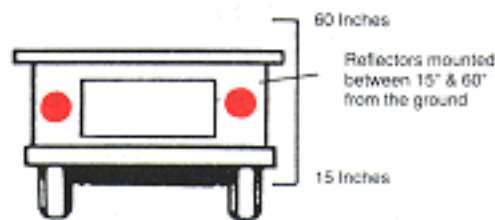
One or more white or amber colored lights are to be mounted on the front of each vehicle.

### \* **License Plate Light**

All vehicles will have one white light mounted on the rear of the vehicle so that the license number may be clearly read at a distance of at least 50 feet. This light may be part of the tail lamp assembly.

### \* **Reflectors**

Vehicles must have one amber reflector on each side of the vehicle located at or near the front, and one red reflector on each side located at or near the rear of the vehicle. The reflectors must be visible from 500 feet at night and must be placed not less than 15 inches nor more than 60 inches above the ground. If the highest part of the permanent structure is less than 15 inches, the reflectors must be mounted as high as possible.



Vehicles with an overall length of 30 feet or more must have one amber reflector on each side of the vehicle located at or near the center of each side. The visibility and height requirements are the same.

### **Clearance Lights**

Buses, RVs, and trailers 80 inches or more in width must have two amber lights on the front and one on each side. Two red lights are required on the rear and one on each side at the rear. Lights must be visible from 500 feet at night.

### **Side Mark Lights**

Buses, recreational vehicles, and trailers 80 inches or more in width must have two side markers on each side (amber in front and red at the rear). The lights must be visible at night from 500 feet to the side.

### \* **Flags and Lights for Extending Loads**

Each vehicle which carries a load extending four feet or more beyond the bed or body of the vehicle must display two flags or lights located on the rear of the load.

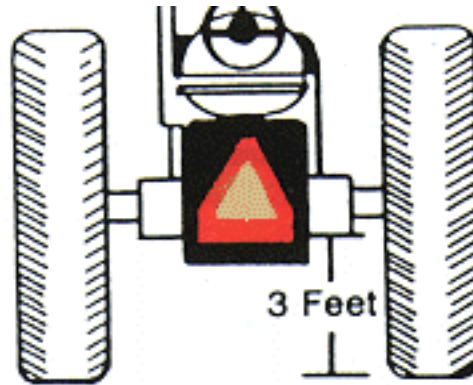
The flags may be used during daytime only and must be at least 12 inches square. Lights are for use during nighttime and must be visible for at least 500 feet. Some loads may also require red reflectors in addition to the lights.

### **Red or Blue Lights Visible From The Front**

Red or blue lights that are visible from the front of a vehicle may not be used except by emergency, school, snow removal or other authorized vehicles.

### **Slow-Moving Vehicle Emblem**

All vehicles limited to speeds of 25 mph or less must display the approved red and orange emblem. The emblem should be placed at least three feet above the ground and as near as possible to the rear center of the vehicle.



### **\* Brakes**

All motor vehicles must have brakes which meet federal standards on all wheels. An exception to the law is any truck or truck tractor with three or more axles, which must have brakes on all wheels except the front wheels.

**NOTE:** Consult the Utah Highway Patrol or the US Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration for brake requirements on trailers.

### **\* Parking Brake**

All vehicles, except motorcycles, must be equipped with one functional parking brake.

### **\* Mufflers**

All motor vehicles must have at least one muffler as effective in the reduction of noise as those with which the vehicle was originally equipped.

### **\* Horn**

All motor vehicles must have one functioning horn which must be heard under normal conditions from a distance of not less than 200 feet.

### **\* Windshield**

A windshield is required on all vehicles except motorcycles.

### **\* Windshield Wipers**

All vehicles with windshields must have at least one wiper adequate enough to clean rain, snow or other moisture from the windshield. If your vehicle was originally equipped with two windshield wipers, both must function properly. A two or more speed wiper system is required on all vehicles manufactured after 1967.

### **Sirens, Whistles and Bells**

Only authorized emergency vehicles may be equipped with sirens, whistles or bells.

## \* Mirrors

All vehicles are required to have two rearview mirrors; a left outside mirror and either an interior center-mounted mirror or a right outside mirror. If the side windows or rear window are tinted or obscured, the vehicle must have outside mirrors on both the left and right sides. Rearview mirrors must provide a clear view of the highway at least 200 feet to the rear.

## Safety Chains or Cables

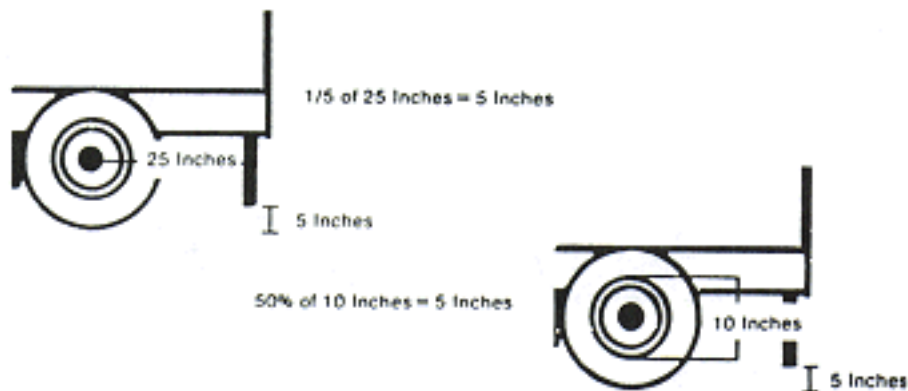
All towed vehicles, in addition to regular hitches or couplings, must have one chain or cable strong enough to prevent the vehicles from separating.

## Pollution Control Devices

Owners of vehicles equipped by the manufacturer with pollution control devices are required to keep and maintain the equipment as effective as the original equipment. NOTE: This law does not apply to vehicles altered to use propane, if the emissions meet all existing standards.

## Mud Flaps or Guards

Any vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,500 pounds or more, any vehicle with altered suspension or tire size or any trailer with an unladen weight of 750 pounds or more shall be equipped with wheel covers, mudguards, flaps or splash aprons behind the rearmost wheels. The flaps or guards must be at least as wide as the tires and made of metal or flexible material which will prevent most road materials from being thrown into the windshield of any following vehicle. The ground clearance must not be more than 50% of the diameter of the wheel that is on the rearmost axle, nor more than one-fifth the distance from the center of the diameter of the rearmost axle to the flaps (see illustration below).



## Flares, Reflectors, Electric Lights and Flags

Trucks, truck tractors and buses must have three flares, portable red emergency reflectors or red electric lights and two red flags with standards. Emergency flares, reflectors and lights must be capable of being seen and distinguished at a distance of not less than 600 feet. Flares must be capable of burning for twelve hours. Fuses must meet the New York Bureau of Explosives Standards and burn for at least 15 minutes. Vehicles transporting explosive or flammable materials may not use flares or fuses.

## Fire Extinguisher

Although fire extinguishers are not required for all vehicles, it is recommended that all drivers carry at least one. By stopping a fire in its early stages, you can avoid expensive property loss and prevent an extremely hazardous condition. Fire extinguishers, however, are not effective unless handled properly.

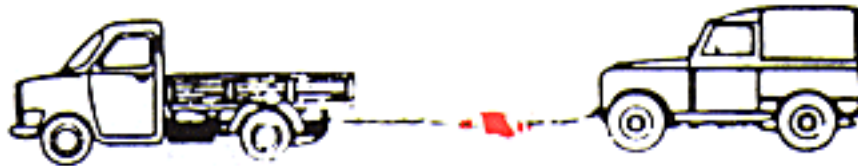
# DRIVING RULES



## Towing Vehicles

On occasion, you may be called upon to tow another vehicle. In this situation there are only three rules to remember:

1. The draw-bar or other connections between any tow vehicles may not exceed 15 feet in length from one vehicle to the other.
2. When a connection consists of a chain, rope or cable, there shall be a red flag or other signal attached to the connecting device. The flag shall be no smaller than 12 inches square (one foot square).
3. No person shall operate a train of vehicles when any trailer or other vehicle being towed whips or swerves dangerously or unreasonably from side to side.



## Placement of Warning Devices

On occasion, your vehicle may break down on the road. It is important to know when and how to place the flares, flags, lights, etc. Warning devices must be displayed any time your vehicle is at least 80 inches wide or 30 feet long, and is disabled or stopped along the road for more than ten minutes. The warning devices are not required if you are:

1. Legally parked in an urban district.
2. Lawfully picking up or letting off passengers.
3. Stopped to avoid conflict with other traffic.
4. Complying with directions from a police officer or an official traffic control device.

Two simple steps for placing warning devices in emergency situations are:

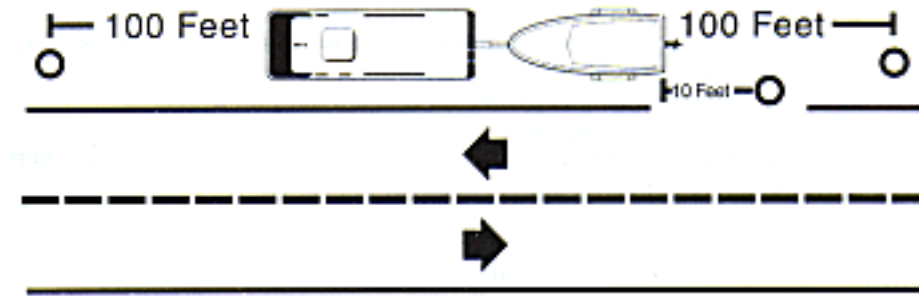
1. Immediately place a flare, lighted fuse, electric lantern or emergency reflector to the side of the vehicle (in the direction of the nearest oncoming traffic).
2. Next, place flares, electric lights or reflectors 100 feet to the front and rear of the vehicle. Also place a warning device on the traffic side of, and not less than 10 feet from, the rear of your



vehicle.

## **REMEMBER, FLARES AND FUSES MAY NOT BE CARRIED IN VEHICLES TRANSPORTING EXPLOSIVES, FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS OR COMPRESSED GAS.**

The following illustration summarizes placement of warning devices.



The following are a few additional points you need to know about the placement of warning devices:

1. On a one-way street, the rear flag should be placed 200 feet to the rear.
2. Warning devices need not be displayed if there is sufficient light to reveal persons or vehicles from 1,000 feet.
3. If your vehicle breaks down within 500 feet of a curve, hilltop or something else that obstructs a clear view, the warning device in that direction shall be placed far enough away to give ample warning to approaching motorists. The warning device, however, may not be placed more than 500 feet away from the vehicle nor closer than 100 feet to the vehicle.

**NOTE: All warning devices must be placed in the center of the lane in which your vehicle is stopped. If your vehicle is entirely off the road, place the devices on the shoulder of the road as close as possible to the road surface.**

### **Safe use of Flares and Fuses**

Warning devices such as flares and fuses are meant as safety aids. Do not let them become a safety liability. Careful and safe use of these devices involves:

1. Keeping the lighted end well away from your face and eyes. Fuses, especially, can cause bad burns.
2. Not attaching any flare or fuses to your vehicle. Not only is this a very dangerous action, but it is also illegal.
3. Keeping the burning flares or fuses away from fuel leakages and spills.

### **Convoys, Caravans and Motorcades**

If you are part of a convoy, caravan or motorcade, you must allow sufficient space between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead of you for an overtaking vehicle to pass you and safely occupy that space. You should always maintain a safe following distance, whether you are part of a procession or not.

### **Tire Fires**

Tire fires can be a serious problem for drivers. The best way to avoid this problem is to prevent it in the first place. The following hints are a few things you can do to decrease the chance of having a tire fire:

1. Check tires and brakes frequently for unusual heat. If any tires are soft or flat, change them.
2. Never drive for an extended period of time on a soft or flat tire or with a brake that is dragging. These situations can result in heat buildup and cause a tire fire.
3. Never ignore a tire that is hot. Either stay with the vehicle until the tire is cool or change it.
4. Remember to always release your parking brake before moving the vehicle.
5. Remain alert for potential problems from:
  - Brakes that are dragging or overheated.
  - Leaking oil seals that may splash oil on a hot tire.
  - Dual tires that are partially deflated. When this condition exists, your odds for a fire are very high.

If a tire fire does occur, the following actions will help:

1. A large supply of water is probably the best remedy for a tire fire. If possible, get to a fire station for assistance.
2. Fire extinguishers are usually not very effective for this type of fire. Shoveling dirt on the tire can sometimes retard the fire enough for you to get the tire off.
3. If you cannot get the tire off, try driving until the tire burns off of the rim or until you reach a good source of water. This alternative is certainly better than just waiting. If you just sit and wait, your vehicle will probably burn up.
4. As a last resort, drop your trailer. By doing that, you will at least save one of the units.

### **General Fire Information**

Not all fires will be tire fires and you need to be prepared for them when they do occur. Some general hints include:

1. Do not waste the contents of your fire extinguisher. The contents are limited, so take careful aim and make every burst count.
2. Fight fires with the wind at your back. If you are using an extinguisher, your efforts will be more effective and you will avoid having poisonous or caustic gases blown into your face.
3. Be familiar with different types of fires. For example, fighting a gasoline or oil fire with water will only spread the fire.

### **Clearances**

As you drive, you need to be aware of the increased height, width and length of your vehicle. Bridges, tunnels and overhanging trees that were no problem when you were driving your car can be a definite safety hazard when driving a larger vehicle. Some precautions you can take include:

1. Knowing the dimensions of your vehicle. Squeezing through a tight place is risky. In those instances in which your clearance is less than six inches, be safe and slow down. Hazards such as rough roads might cause you to bounce into a low ceiling or swerve into a close wall.
2. Being aware that some bridges and tunnels are not made for a car and a truck to pass through at the same time. If you have any doubts, let the other vehicle go through first.
3. Keeping an eye out for fire escapes, low hanging tree limbs and filing station canopies. Be especially alert when you bring your vehicle in for a test drive. Several of the driver license offices have canopies that are prime targets for unaware drivers.

## Cold Weather and Your Brakes

In freezing weather a number of things can happen to your brakes.

1. They may be completely ineffective for several hundred feet then suddenly grab as the friction dries out the brakes.
2. All moving parts can freeze solid resulting in the complete loss of brakes.
3. The brakes may not release once they are applied.

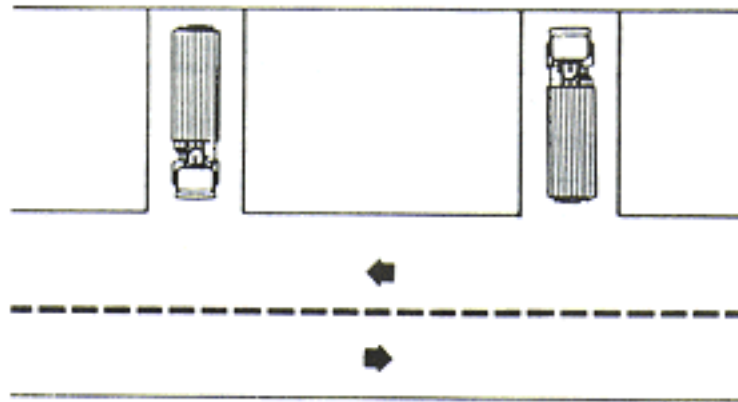
To help prevent problems from occurring, lightly touch your brakes occasionally.

## Backing

One final safety tip involves backing. When backing, you should use a guide if at all possible. Even if a guide is available, you should get out of your vehicle and look the area over before you begin to back. Never back an RV or any large vehicle into traffic. Rather, make sure that you initially park as shown below.

Correct

Incorrect



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